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#### Tunisian opposition leader charged

TUNIS (R) — Mohammad Moada, leader of Tunisia's largest opposition political party, has been charged with having "secret and compromising relations with a foreign country," judicial sources said on Saturday, Mr. Moada, president of the Movement of Social Democrats (MDS) and a university professor, was arrested on Monday for a preliminary investigation on charges of having secretly received money from an unnamed foreign country. The sources said a judge formally charged him on Friday. The MDS on Thursday called for the release of Mr. Moada. In a statement, the MDS said Mr. Moada's activities, particularly "at the Arab level," have always been public. Amnesty International said on Tuesday it was concerned that Mr. Moada might be held solely on account of his peaceful political activities, and feared that he was at risk of unfair trial. Amnesty had noted that Mr. Moada's arrest followed a letter he sent to President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali on Sept. 21 raising the party's concerns, including restrictions on political activities. On Oct. 8 the MDS politburo issued an open letter to the president raising the same concerns, it added.



#### Egypt to hold parliamentary polls on Nov. 29

CAIRO (AFP) - Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak issued a decree on Saturday fixing legislative elections for Nov. 29, officials said. Almost 18 million electors will go to the polls to choose 444 deputies in 222 constituencies for the People's Assembly. Egypt's opposition parties have announced they will participate after most boycotted the last parliamentary vote in 1990 to protest "the government's refusal to guarantee the integrity of elections." The Muslim Brotherhood, although not recognised as a party, also intends to participate, fielding 150 candidates. For the first time the based cases of Malain depend by both Front and Sudan will the border zone of Halaib, claimed by both Egypt and Sudan, will be considered as a voting district. The contested desert zone is home to some 18,000 bedouins. Voters will also for the first time elect individual candidates instead of voting for a party list. A candidate must win at least 50 per cent of the votes in his district. If no one wins an absolute majority, the two leading candidates will hold a run-off election on December 6. Parliament is overwhelmingly-dominated by Mr. Mubarak's National Democratic Party.

Number 6046

AMMAN SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1995, JUMADA ULA 21, 1416

Price: Jordan 150 File

# cal Knkly Pupper Shor Which pokes fun a prevalent Rens Yeltsin and Stern Peditical figures Arm. Arm. King: Residents need to the pode figures are supported to the pode figures Prosecutor General Action in predectors and the case not worry over legal atyramos saro me es antificado hy ins predecesse. Alekser Hynchenko sh is sacked Sunday, he been dropped but gate in the case against Kukly he lechning any further top, and the case lands will be protected. The not Qadhafi and Jordan is not Libya's accused of defigration to.

bent officials by pour Majesty King Hussein said Saturday said there was no remove to the major Classic s manipum wages of the ownership of lands on which Palestinian refugee pointh kinkly or Their camps were built and that appears weekly on the Palestinians from its terri-

which has often been. Chairing a regular Cabinet chick with the government session, the King said the of the often concel cone issue of the camps' lands, are of events including which are being claimed by their owners, was purely legal and urged the government to take the necessary measures to safeguard the rights of all Selena's killing involved parties "and to protect the Jordanian citizen's stability in his home."

His Majesty stressed the need to enhance national uni-ROBERTON (R) - De "undisputable and unbreachence memore and at able.

we man accorded mards "We lived in this country ne 1 S much star Select as one cooperative and loving ther her as identally in; family and we will not allow ispair provided by the harm to the rights or dignity tiget tyrannical fathe of any Jordanian. Citizens will always have their full gights and duties until they

have the right to practise their natural right to choose the nationality they want," said the King.

The King's remarks came as uneasiness was rising over the fate of three Palestinian refugee camps built on land leased to the United Nations and now being claimed by their owners.

The land has been leased for nearly 50 years to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, which had used it to build housing, health facilities and schools for some 250,000 refugees.

The government has said it would intercede with the owners and assured refugees that they would not be evacu-

In statements to the press following the session, King Hussein said: "I would like to say, with due respect to any person I mention, I am not President Muammar Qadhafi nor is Jordan Libya... we are here one family, one hand

and one heart."
"There might be legal

cases or demands or other things, but they will be dealt with in a responsible manner as was the case in the past. This is not the first time that such issues were addressed. But in any case it is not permissible that any citizen be affected or made to feel that he will be harmed, especially those of our (refugee) brethren...

He said rights of all citizens will be safeguarded and all will be treated equally. "I said it more than once that whoever (harms national unity) is my adversary forever."

In reply to a question whether there were any contacts with Libya on expelled Palestinians, King Hussein said: "No doubt this really painful reality is a cause of concern for us. I do not know if there were any contacts during my absence. Nevertheless I do not feel comfortable with the issue.

King Hussein voiced satisfaction over the measures

His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday holds talks with French Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Corinne Lepage in a meeting attended by French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajolet (Petra photo)

## France, Jordan to cooperate in environment-linked issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Saturday French Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Corinne Lepage and discussed with her environment-related projects of mutual concern to France and Jordan which can be implemented in the peace era and benefit all concerned Middle Eastern nations.

Ms. Lepage said that her country was keen on issues related to water and the environment in this region and would cooperate with Jordan in implementing relevant

The audience was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheioat and French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Ba-

The French minister earlier

in the day met Mr. Irsheidat to discuss prospects for Jordanian-French Cooperation in water-related fields and in combating pollution. In statements to the press

after the meeting the French minister said that her country would be represented at the Oct. 29-31 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference by three French ministers and executives from 45 French companies.

Ms. Lepage, who has par-ticipated in numerous national and international meetings

on pollution and the environment, said her discussions with Dr. Irsheidat covered Jordan's water needs and how can Jordan benefit from France in fighting water

Ms. Lepage, an author of more than 50 articles on public rights and the environment, had met Dr. Irsheidat in Paris who invited her to come to Jordan following her visit to Lebanon and discuss prospects of cooperation in water-related fields.

Ms. Lepage, who was scheduled to leave for Paris Saturday evening was accompanied on her visit by her advisor on international matters, Dorothee Pineau.

## Libya denies deal to end expulsions

CAIRO (Agencies) — Libya denied Saturday that a deal was struck with Egypt in which Colonel Muammar Qadhafi would stop expelling Palestinians to a no man's land on the Egyptian border.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said last week Col. Qadhafi had agreed to end the deportations and that hundreds of Palestinians stranded at the border camp would return home to Libya or travel to the Gaza Strip within the next two weeks.

But on Saturday, the official Libyan news agency, JANA, said the decision to end the expulsions was not up to Col. Qadhafi because he had no official position in the government. The Palestinians had decided on their own to leave, it said, and no one could intervene.

"The decision taken by the Palestinian Arab people to return to their homeland is a correct one," JANA said. 'No one can retract nor can he dissuade the Palestinian Arab people from reaffirming their right to return to their homeland."

The agency, however, did not comment on the reports that the Palestinians wouldleave the camp within two

weeks. But Egyptian officials at the border said there were no signs that they were to be moved any time soon.

Meanwhile, tension was rising Saturday in the desert camp sheltering 1,000 Palestinians expelled from Libya. One Palestinian man was so frustrated he called on former French film star and

animal-rights activist Brigitte Bardot for help. 'We are considered animals by everyone, so there's no Palestine Liberation Orgaone left but her to take care nisation (PLO) self-rule of us," said the man, who accord signed in September

that the first baby to be born in the camp was due this week, adding that he would "deliver it, even though we are completely lacking in the necessary equipment."

Libya installed two clinics in the camp in early October, but it removed equipment from them soon afterwards. camp residents said.

Abu Tareq said the 28year-old mother should name the newborn "Michael Jahshoon (the donkey) so he will be better treated '

"Animals are pampered compared to us," he said. Meanwhile, a group of 30 Palestinians who staged several protests in the camp during the past week, demanding an end to their plight, were allowed back into Libva on Friday, a camp resident

"The Libyans promised to put an end to their expulsion and give them \$50 each if they organised protests," he

The protestors closed the road across the border three times, the latest on Tuesday. calling on Egypt to let them pass and return to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

About 100 Palestinians have urged resuming the protests while the rest of the camp opposes them. Each side accuses the other of being "agents" for either Egypt or Libya.

Col. Qadhafi began expelling the 30,000 Palestinians living in his country in a bid to swamp the Gaza Strip and the West Bank with retur-

Presenting himself as the "protector" of Palestinians. he insisted that the Israelonly identified himself as gave all Palestinians the right

# The detendant of the detendant detendant Israeli general threatens ought conferring mone to hit S.Lebanese villages

mirk of murkt TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A hat a what we've beet senior Israeli army officer trung all along that said on Saturday villages in southern Lebanon would be hit hard if guerrillas kept up attacks on Israeli forces.

"The area is hot and I hope they (guerrillas) will have the sense and think and not drag us into hitting their villages harder, which as was said, we do not want to harm them." northern commander Major General Amiram Levine told Israel's army radio. Israeli military sources said

Israeli soldiers killed two guerrillas on Saturday two days after pro-Iranian Hizbollah fighters killed three Israeli soldiers in South The clash took place in the

Wadi Litani area just inside Israel's South Lebanon occupation zone. Hizbollah had claimed responsibility for the Thursday bomb attack which hit an Israeli patrol killing three and

wounding six soldiers inside

ment on casualties.

The radio station of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) said the guerrillas were killed during a dawn shootout with an Israeli commando unit in an area west of the Bekaa Valley, outside Israel's selfdeclared security zone.

The two fighters who died were members of a group that ambushed the Israeli army convoy late on Thursday, the Voice of the South radio station said. A Hizbollah official con-

firmed there had been a clash between Israeli troops and guerrillas on Saturday and said it was in the Birkeh Jabbour region, outside the "security zone." But he said no casaulty figures were

The Hizbollah official denied that members of the group responsible for the ambush had been killed. "The heroes who took part in

In Beirut, Hizbollah the operation on Thursday sources confirmed the Wadi will be received by the secret-Litani clash but did not com- ary general of Hizbollah tohe said.

> Hizbollah spearheads resistance in Israeli occupation of the security zone. The attack on Thursday raised to 18 dead and 74 wounded the number of Israeli casualties in South Lebanon this year. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres blamed the deaths of his soldiers on Syria for doing nothing to prevent the violence and said the attack was linked to the deadlock in Israeli-Syrian peace

However, Syria, the main power-broker in Lebanon. where it has 35,000 troops stationed, blamed Israel on Saturday for the violence, saying the Jewish state's occupation of part of the country was the main cause of the conflict.

Israeli-Syrian peace nego tiations have been deadlocked since their launch in 1991.

# Thousands rally to back Israeli-held Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) - Thousands of Palestinians demonstrated in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Saturday in support of prisoners whose release has been blocked by Israel, Palestinian and military sources said.

There were clashes in Ramallah in the West Bank when 100 demonstrators hurled stones and bottles at an Israeli police station, but border guards restored order after using tear-gas grenades. No casualties were reported.

Thousands of Palestinians observed a general strike throughout most of the towns in the West Bank, notably Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem and Jericho and East Traffic ground to a halt,

shops shut, and courses were suspected at Bir Zeit University, near Ramallah, and other colleges. In Jericho, 7,000 school children marched in response to a call from the prisoners's commit-

Thousands of students and pupils gathered in front of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's office in Gaza City and shouted slogans against Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"Yes to peace. No to the imprisonment of Palestinians," they shouted, waving

all Iraqis could find a reason

for voting "yes" but in pri-

vate many fraqis said they

were indifferent to the re-

ferendum and some said they

At a stadium in eastern

Baghdad buses brought

schoolgirls to practise the

voting "No."

banners proclaiming "Peace process threatened" and Settlers and closure (of territories by Israel) are time-

Israel, which agreed to free all Palestinian women from jail under the terms of the accord extending autonomy signed in Washington on Sept. 28, has refused to release four Palestinians with Israeli blood on their hands."

Twenty other women prisoners have decided to stay in jail in solidarity with them. The Jewish state has closed off its borders with the West Bank since Sept. 27 and the Gaza Strip since Sept. 20, fearing attacks by militants opposed to the autonomy accord.

According to a public opin-ion poll published Saturday, most Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and West Bank support the Sept. 28 self-rule agree-

The survey conducted by the Jerusalem Media Communications Centre and Al Hayat newspaper, indicated that 72.7 per cent of the 1,270 Palestinians questioned said they approved of the accord, which calls for expanding nian governing council.

Most Palestinians said they

were hopeful for the future following the signing of the

accord, with 72.9 per cent hopeful and 22.2 per cent saying they were doubtful. The rest had no opinion. At the same time, howev-

er, 54.8 per cent said they

were not sure Mr. Rabin will fully honour the accord. while just 27.2 per cent said they were sure. The poll, conducted on Oct. 6-7, has a three per cent margin of ептог. Israel released over 800 prisoners last week. Some

5,000 more remain in prison

and Israel has said it will not

release those responsible for the killing or serious wounding of Israelis. Teenagers dressed in blue and white school uniforms marched through Gaza City carrying Palestinian flags and pictures of the four women

whom Israel has refused to Under the terms of the accord, Israel was to release all the female prisoners, but President Ezer Weizman and West Bank military commander Ilan Biran both exercised their authority to refuse the pardon of those women pris-

The Israeli government insists it has no authority to overrule the unprecedented stands taken by Mr. Weizman and General Biran The students assembled

(Continued on page 7)

# Berlusconi is indicted

MILAN, Italy (Agencies) — Former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi will stand trial for suspected corruption in January, investigating Magistrate Fabio Paparella announced Satur-

The trial of the media magnate and 10 other people suspected of bribing Italy's financial police will open here on Jan. 17.

The case involves alleged payments of 335 million lire (\$200,000) made by three companies of Mr. Berlusconi's Fininvest holding and the pay-television channel Telepio. in which Fininvest holds a 10 per cent stake, to financial police between 1989 and 1992 to keep tax inspectors at

Mr. Berlusconi has consistently denied involvement and said that if payments were made they were due to pressure from dishonest The former premier earlier

requested that if he had to political and economic elite.

should take place in Brescia instead of Milan where he said left-leaning investigators had an anti-Berlusconi bias. On the venue for the trial his lawyers argued that Brescia, east of Milan in Lombardy, would also be more suit-

able since a related trial is currently underway there. At a news conference last week, they raged against the Milan prosecutor and his "relentless" pursuit of their client, saying he had turned it into a media event.

Mr. Berlusconi, who was prime minister between May and December last year, had accused the prosecutor's office of instituting a climate of a "police state."

He was swept to power after his two-month-hold Forza Italia party won general elections in late March pledging to end wide-spread corruption among Italy's

# Bosnia fighting rages; refugee crisis worsens

Clashes between government and Bosnian Serb forces kept up Saturday as aid officials warned of a gathering humanitarian disaster in northern Bosnia where thousands of distressed Serb refugees have swamped overcrowded

"The northwest confrontation line remains a concern, particularly the area around Sanski Most where fighting has continued. UNPROFOR needs access to both sides to yerify the claims (of each army) that they are not ex-ploiting the ceasefire," U.N. military spokesman Chris Vernon said.

A senior U.N. official in the area said that the Bosnian army's General Anf Dudakovic, the regional commander in northwest Bosnia, was dedemined to take the town of Prijedor, one of the last remaining strategic Serb-held

towns in the area. Gen. Dudakovic is feeling very victorious, very proud of what he has done so far," said Colonel Erki Dam, the U.N. commander for the

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bihac area. "He is of the opinion that if he takes Prijedor he will reach all his

> Swift advances in the area by Gen. Dudakovic's Fifth Corp in the days leading up to the start of Thursday's 60-day has yielded territory, towns but also sparked a mass exodus of Bosnian Serbs from the area. International Committee

for the Red Cross (ICRC) spokesman John Sparrow said that up to 25,000 people had gathered in Omarska, an area just east of Prijedor. It is also the site of a mining complex which served as one of the notorious detention camps used by the Serbs in 1992 at the beginning of the war to hold thousands of Muslim men, many of whom were killed and tortured.

"Many people are out-doors. The site itself is a health hazard. There are thousands of tractors there, people are all over the place. Our medical teams are work-

Conditions in the Omarsta

area Sparrow said, "were cri-

ing round the clock," he said. The chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John Shalikashvili, in Sarajevo Saturday for a short visit to meet Bosnian leaders and U.N. chiefs, discussed the ceasefire with Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Sila-He told reporters: "We

ceasefire holding in general but we did not talk about any specific area. I think any fighting is a serious threat to the ceasefire." In Washington, the U.S. called Friday for an end to ceasefire violations in Bosnia

talked the importance of the

and pressed leaders in the region to focus on peace talks starting later this month. "The United States calls on all parties in Bosnia to stop the fighting," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said. "They can

tiating table than they can on the battlefield." The U.S. ambassadors and the chief U.S. negotiator on

achieve far more at the nego-

(Continued on page 7)

#### Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and for the holding of elections for a Palesti-

Iraqi media predict 100% vote for Saddam today

the result comes out, prob-

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi schoolgirls rehearsed victory parades for Saddam ably on Monday. The official daily newspaper Al Jumhouriya said the Hussein on Saturday and the Iraqi people should vote to official news agency INA preextend the president's mandicted 100 per cent support date as a gesture against U.S. for the president in Sunday's hostility and interference in referendum on whether he should stay on as president.
An opinion poll found that

the country's affairs. The attack followed comments from U.S. officials on Friday who predicted sanctions keeping Iraq's oil off world markets would stay in force for at least another year knew of people with so little after the disclosure of new to lose that they would risk details on Baghdad's arms programme (see story on

pages 2 and 12).
"Why does the United States refuse all dialogue with dances and songs of adulation .Iraq and insist on destroying they expect to perform after it?" Al Jumhouriya asked.

"Oil and Zionism are the reason for this hostility," it added, accusing the U.S. of working in the interests of Israel and Gulf Arab oil producers allied to Washington.

"We are going to voting centres knowing that the United States is the sworn enemy of democracy in Iraq and that the embargo is an act aimed against democracy, judging by the crimes it en-genders," the paper said.

On Sunday up to 7.5 million Iraqis have the opportunity to answer "Yes" or "No" to the question: "Do you agree to Saddam Hussein assuming the post of president of the Republic of

It will be the first time the

Iraqi government has asked the people what they think of President Saddam, who took the presidency in 1979 through the unelected Revolutionary Command Coun-

Diplomats say the aim is to arm the government against foreign critics who draw a distinction between President Saddam and the Iraqi people and say the U.N. trade embargo imposed as a result of the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait should stay as long as he is in power.

But there are at least three schools of thought on how voters will behave, faced with a choice which at least in theory could affect the future of the crippling sanctions.

Saddam supporters say everyone loves the president as the symbol in whose shadow they can achieve stability, ensure the unity of the country's honour in its confrontation with spiteful foreign enemies.

INA said: "By simple calculations and studying the preparations and careful organisation... President Saddam Hussein will win the support of all the participants without exception.'

"This will tear up the last card brandished by the forces of darkness... every Iraqi and every Arab knows that Saddam is the only symbol in whose shadow they can

achieve stability, ensure the (Continued on page 7)

# U.N. hears call for tightening monitoring of Iraq weapons

UNITED NATIONS some missiles, and successful-(USIA) — Members of the ly completed test flights, he ly completed test flights, he said, noting, "That means that in addition to imports U.N. Security Council said Friday that new revelations about Iraq's weapons progfrom the (former) Soviet Union it has managed to inderammes have scuttled any pendently augment its capatalk of lifting sanctions, espebility., That has created some cially the oil embargo, serious problems in regard to against Baghdad in the forecounting" the number of misseeable future and will resiles actually destroyed and quire adjustments in the assuring the international U.N.'s long-term monitoring community that Iraq is complying with the U.N. resolu-

"We now know Iraq had

chemical... and biological warheads. That means (Iraq

had) strategic capabilities of

considerable significance.

The matter of warheads,

mobile launchers, the matter

of mobile missiles are a mat-

ter of increased risk and

problems," Mr. Ekeus said.

has other problems as well:

verifying that Iraq actually

destroyed the biological

agents and weapons it said it

did in 1991, determining if

there are Scud-type missiles that have not been destroyed.

accounting for the huge amounts of precursor chemic-

als for a very potent nerve agent, and verifying if there

are any chemical and biolo-gical warheads remaining.

have to investigate. We have

concerns because there were

bombs filled with such

agents. Iraq has aircraft to

know if there are missile war-

information from the U.N.

The report shows essential-

how far away Irao is from

cooperating with the United

Nations, diplomats said.

Essentially what UNSCOM

learned came about because

of a defection which could

not be anticipated. It casts

even greater doubt about

how much UNSCOM really

knows about Irao's activities

suggests that the current U.N. monitoring system

needs to be tightened, the

number of monitored sites

increased, and new equip-

that the monitoring and veri-

fication system will need to

be adjusted to accommodate

programmes that were larger

than previously thought.

pointed out that the system is

working and is "very robust

It detected the purchase of

large amounts of "growth

medium" that pointed to

Iraq's large biological

weapons programme, there-by eventually compelling Iraq

to release documents show-

ing just how advanced the

programme was, he said. The

monitoring programme also

detected Irao's movement of

equipment that could be con-

verted to chemical weapons

Mr. Ekeus, while agreeing

ment added.

and sound."

production.

for four and a half years.

us." Mr. Ekeus said.

'We are not satisfied. We

Mr. Ekeus said UNSCOM

Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission overseeing the destruction of Iraq's chemical, biological nuclear, and ballistic missile programmes (UNSCOM), told the council that new information gathered in the past six months shows that Iraq had kept secret a major biological weapons programme and its. ability to produce indigenous Scud-type missiles.

He met with the council to discuss the written report of UNSCOM's activities for the past six months, which was given to council members earlier in the week. The report spells out the details of the discoveries that had been revealed piecemeal since April in what has been described as the one of the "most significant periods" of work since the commission was founded at the end of the Gulf war in 1991.

Much of the recently gathered information contradicts earlier declarations by Iraq and requires UNSCOM assessments to be revised. according to the report.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said that "by all indications (the report) shows that Iraq has cheated and lied in terms of its dealings with the United Nations and the international community.

Iraq admitted to UN-SCOM that in the summer of 1991 orders were issued by a high authority to directors of the weapons sites to "protect important documents" by packing them quickly and delivering them on demand to special security agents. "Iraq's original claim that all documentation was destroyed is thus patently false," the report states.

UNSCOM doubts that the material turned over in August represents all of the documents. "Much more documentation must still exist, particularly in certain significant areas such as production records, Iraq's procurement networks, and sources of supply," according to the report.

At a press conference after his private meeting with the council. Mr. Ekues said that his report is "disturbing in the sense that it indicates that Iraq has not... been cooperating in the spirit or according to the letter of 667 and other relevant resolutions.

"Iraq has kept secret a major weapons programme which was conceptualised, developed, and put into effect before the Gulf war: the large-scale production of a biological warfare agent. Also highly significant is that (the agent) was put into delivery systems - bombs and warheads for long-range missiles; furthermore they were deployed for use at various launching points."
Iraq also produced Scud-

type engines, put them into

# Queen visits Mukheibeh, Umm Qais

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Saturday visited Irbid Governorate, in particular the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Quality of Life Project at Mukheibeh vil-lage and Umm Qais. The Queen visited the basket weaving and furniture production centre as well as the bee keeping, citrus fruit cultivation and organic soil production projects.

The centre, which is supervised by the National Jordan Design and Trade Centre (JDTC), was estab-lished in 1993 to train village women to weave baskets and upholstef furniture using raw materials indigenous to the region such as banana and palm leaves as well as the alfalfa plant. The centre, in cooperation with JDTC, will be expanded to produce and upholster light furniture.

Queen Noor toured the Department of Antiquities' restoration project at Umm Qais, where three late 19th



Her Majesty Queen Noor on Saturday visits a tre at Mukheibeh in Irbid Governorate (photo eaving and furniture production cen- by Crystal)

century buildings were renovated and transformed into a museum, an archaeological dig house

and Ministry of Tourism

## Ashrawi: Polls key to Palestinian state

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Hannan Ashrawi, the former spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks and the founder of the Palestinian Independent Commission on Citizens' Rights, came to Washington to express her views on the recent interim agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis and the difficult path which still lies ahead for the Palestinian people.

Speaking at a press confer-

ence hosted by the National deliver such bombs. We Association of Arab-Americans Oct. 13, Dr. heads left in Iraq, Iraq has Ashrawi stressed the importbeen seriously misleading ance of the elections which the interim agreement will Both Security Council members and U.N. officials make possible, perhaps as early as next March. Elections are a key component of are concerned because while nation-building, she said, one of the fundamental express-Iraq turned over about one million pages of documents in ions of the democratic pro-August, its actions came not from a change in policy but because of the defection of cess. They are also a way of empowering people. Dr. Ashrawi said of the vote for General Hussein Kamel: the the 82-member Palestinian head of Iraq's weapons progcouncil and chief executive. rammes. Iraq has blamed Kamel for withholding the

But given all the obstacles which the Palestinians are facing, Dr. Ashrawi said that she was not expecting miracles. But she expected members of Hamas to be included and expressed hope that a sufficient number of women would be elected. Above all, she said, the election needs to produce people of high moral

Even before the elections. a good deal of attention must be paid to the pre-election process, she said. One of the keys to this is developing a free press, she said, adding that in her opinion, the Palestinian press was not yet entirely free of external and internal restrictions. While praising the Palestinian television station for having permitted fair and open discussions to be aired, she expressed concern about its recent

troops on the West Bank and in Gaza continues to be a major impediment to free and fair elections, Dr. Ashrawi said. For this reason, she favours a strong international presence there. "We need observation," she stated. The bulk of her talk fo-

cused on the peace process and the "painful" road which lies ahead for the Palestinian people. "Nobody ever promised us a rose garden and we

Among her many objections to the current transition phase in which the Palestinians find themselves is the fact that the Israelis continue to control the border crossings. Israeli restrictions on the free circulation of the Palestinians have led to their

fragmentation and will con-

tinue to "create quite a lot of

problems," she said. The lack of specific timetables for the elections and the redeployment of Israeli forces is also a serious concern to her. The terms of the Interim Accord, she said, give the Israelis the right to determine when these will occur. It will take a tremendous amount of goodwill to implement decisions under such circumstances, she said.

Dr. Ashrawi noted that the Palestinians have begun to lose their enthusiasm for the overall peace process. There has been, she said, "an ero-sion of support." Many people believe that the fragmented. conditions the Palestinian Authority accepted in the interim agreement will become perma-

"The agreement in itself is one of the most complex. difficult, unwieldy agreements in history," she commented.

Dr. Ashrawi was some-what critical of the United States for taking a comparatively "hands-off" approach to the peace process. While conceding that the strategic relationship between the U.S. and Israel limited the extent to which the country could be even-handed, she called on Washington to make Israel comply with human rights issues such as the release of all Palestinian prisoners. "The U.S. is too powerful a country to be a spectator," she commented.

Dr. Ashrawi also called upon the U.S. to pressure the Israelis on the settlements question. In addition, she urged Washington to make its funding more effective. "We haven't seen concrete projects yet," she stated. The Palestinians can do without five or six different organisations talking to them about democracy; most of the money thus far has gone to U.S. organisations, she added.

#### Jordanian lawyers want to defend Egyptian Brothers

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of nine Jordanian political parties and the Jordanian Bar Association on Saturday sent a message to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak requesting that the Egyptian author-ities facilitate the mission of 12 Jordanian lawyers who have volunteered to defend Muslim Brotherhood members standing trial by a military court in Cairo.

The message, a copy of which was sent to the Jordan Times, said that the 12 lawyers, who include two Christians, believe that the people on trial are prominent political, social and professional personalities in Egypt and that they believe it is their duty to join the efforts for their defence.

President Mubarak had ordered the trial by a military tribunal of 49 Brotherhood members who he had accused of being behind militant attacks in Egypt. The group on trial are also accused of directing illegal organisation aiming at impeding the rule of law and the Egyptian constitution. Late last month a group of

four British barristers said they were to attend the trial, which began on Sept. 16, to help the defence. According to the Jordanian

political parties' letter the 12 lawyers are: Hussein Mjalli, Salim Sweis, Saleh Armouti, Rateb Juneidi, Ziyad Kha-sawneh, Adib Hawatmeh, Salim Zoubi, Zuheir Abul Ragheb, Ziyad Khalifeh. Faris Nabulsi, Mamoun Milkawi and Badran Khaled. Apart from the nine parties, the letter was signed by

the Jordan Bar Association and a number of Jordanian political personalities and also by Parliament Member Hamzeh Mansour, an Islam-

The message was forwarded to the Egyptian president through Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Wajih

## Yemen does not seek forgiveness from Gulf

SANAA (R) - Yemen said "If mistakes (by the Iraqi than five years of mistrust. had improved but Sanaa would not seek anyone's forgiveness over its stance in the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

Our ties with Kuwait are brotherly and excellent, but some clouds are still hanging on, both in Yemen and in Kuwait," said Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh in a news conference.

In what diplomats said was a reference to demands by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for explicit apologies by "supporters" of Iraq during the Gulf crisis, Mr. Saleh said: "Yemen will not seek forgiveness from anybody.

Yemen, then a Security Council member, voted against a resolution for the use of force to dislodge Iraqi forces from Kuwait, a move seen as sympathising with Baghdad and costing it hun-dreds of millions of dollars from Gulf states.

Mr. Saleh, speaking on the 32nd anniversary of the upris-ing against British occupation in former South Yemen, called for the lifting of U.N. economic sanctions imposed on Iraq following the Kuwait

the Iraqi people?" he asked.

Mr. Saleh, whose country in the past has been accused by some Arab countries of giving refuge to extremists, "Yemen does not accept any kind of extremism in any form."

But he added that between

1990, when North and South Yemen were merged, and 1994, when his troops quelled a southern separatist bid. "some extremist Muslim forces entered Yemen." "We are now in the process

of returning these forces to their original countries," he said but gave no names or figures.

Asked if they included Algerian Adam Salahuddin, captured after a shootout in southern Yemen this month, Mr. Saleh said there was no extradition accord between Yemen and Algeria.

"He will receive fair treatment in Yemen," Mr. Saleh

Interior Minister Hussein Mohammad Arab has said Mr. Salahuddin, along with other alleged militants arrested with him, would be tried for resisting arrest and fomenting sectarianism.

# **NEWS IN BRIEF**

## Moderate earthquake hits Algeria

PARIS (R) - An earthquake measuring 3.6 on the open-ended Richter scale shook the Algerian town of Sig, 320 kilometres west of Algiers, early on Saturday, the Algerian official news agency APS said. APS said there was no damage or casualties.

#### Sudan Muslim leader criticises tourism

KHARTOUM (AFP) - An influential Muslim prayer leader has criticised government plans for promoting tourism in Sudan, charging it will bring anti-Islamic customs into the country, the Akbbar Al Yom daily said Saturday. It said Sheikh Al Tigani Siraj, the imam of Khartoum's grand mosque, criticised at Friday prayers a government-backed declaration by the minister of tourism declaring this the year to promote tourism to boost revenues in this poor country. "The Sudanese people do not accept the introduction of on-Islamic customs and traditions brought in by tourists," he said, urging the government to reconsider the matter.

#### Bomb alert grounds Russian aircraft in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (AFP) - Airport authorities evacuated passengers and grounded Russian and Ukrainian aircraft Friday after an unknown caller claimed he had placed bombs on planes about to take off from Istanbul, the Anatolia news agency said. The caller contacted authorities at Istanbul's Ataturk airport at about 2 p.m. (midday GMT) claiming: "We have placed bombs on Russian aircraft which should take off in 15 minutes time." Three Russian and one Ukrainian aircraft were grounded during a search, but no bombs were found.

#### Rao due in Egypt today

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao leaves for Egypt on the first leg of an 11-day tour on Sunday which will include an address to the United Nations General Assembly in New York, officials said. Mr. Rao, who is leading a high-level delegation, is scheduled to hold one-to-one talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and sign three bilateral treaties on combatting terrorism and stepping up scientific cooperation, they said. Mr. Rao and Mr. Mubarak are also expected to hold sweeping talks on the Middle East peace process and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), grouping 112 members. of which both countries are founding members. The Indian premier will leave for Cartagena in Colombia on Monday to attend the 11th Non-Aligned Movement summit which is expected to be attended by some 50 heads of state, they said, Mr. Rao will address the U.N. General Assembly on Oct. 24 during celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the world body, officials said.

#### Egyptian defence minister visits U.S.

CAIRO (AFP) - Egyptian Defence Minister Mohammad Hussein Tantawi left Cairo for the United States on Saturday for talks on strengthening military cooperation between the two countries, officials said. During his mission, General Tantawi will meet U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry, members of Congress, and visit several U.S. military bases, they said. Washington is Cairo's biggest supplier of military assistance, providing Cairo with \$1.2 billion in military aid.

### on Saturday its ties with Kuwait. marked by more mitted, what is the crime of the Imai nearle?" he asked some Gulf crisis victims

GENEVA (USIA) — The United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) has authorised for payment all outstanding approved claims filed by victims of Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait for fixed amounts involving serious personal injury or the death of an im-

mediate family member. At is Oct. 9-11 session, the the UNCC has received over commission's governing council approved the payment of nearly 2,600 individual claims, with awards averaging \$3,200 per claimant. The awards will go to individuals in over 30 countries whose small claims against Iraq have been

The dollar value of the claim awards is approximately \$8.3 million and will be paid from the UNCC Compensation Fund, which contains a small amount of funds from frozen Iraqi assets and

countries. its establishment in 1991 by the U.N. Security Council.

approved by the UNCC. Edward Commings, a U.S. delegate to the commission's governing council, described the vote to pay the claims as a "strong vote of confidence in the future of the UNCC and the claims process."

oil sale proceeds in various But the payment represents only a tiny fraction of the total claims against Irac; the asserted value of the total claims is \$180 billion. Since

2.5 million claims from individuals, business entities. governmental agencies and international organisations. UNCC claim awards are to be paid from a portion of the

proceeds of future Iraqi oil sales, once Iraq complies with the Security Council's conditions for the lifting of economic sanctions and Iraqi oil exports are permitted to resume.

But U.S. officials say that until U.N. economic sanctions against Iraq are life and Iraqi oil exports resurie. it is unlikely that the Compensation Fund will contain enough money to permit the payment of individual claims in other categories.

#### **JORDAN TELEVISION** Tel: 773111-19

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St. Enbraim Church Tel. 771751. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: German-speaking Evangelical Con-gregation Tel. 845457 gregation 101. 843437 The Latter-Day Saints Tcl. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tcl. 675691. The Evangelical Local Church in

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#### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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Jordan Valley 17 / 31	Civil Defence Department 661111
Yesterday's high temperatures:	Civil Defence Immediate
Amman 26, Aqaba 30, Humidity	Rescue
readings: Amman 28 per cent.	Civil Defence Emergency 199 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Aqaba 37 per cent.	Fire Brigade
•	Blood Bank
USEFUL	Highway Police 843402
UJEFUL	Traffic Police
TELEPHONE	Public Security Department 630321
TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Hotel Complaints 605800 Price Complaints 661176
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NIGHT DUTY	Water and Sewerage Complaints
AMMAN:	Amman Municipality
Dr. Mukhies Mazahrah x20425	Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab 758848	Telephone Information
Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485	(directory assistance) 121
Dr. Yousef Rashed 896301	Overseas Calls
Firas pharmacy 661912	Central Amman Telephone Repairs
Ferdows pharmacy 778336	Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Al Asema pharmacy 637055	Jordan Television 773111
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 636730	Radio Jordan 774111
Yacoub pharmacy 644945	Water Authority 680100
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Queen Alia Intl. Airport 198-53200 Dr. Fayez Al Oadi ...... 24K743 HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre X13813/32

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Al-Muasher Hospital ...
The Islamic, Abdali ... 845845 Al-Ahli. Ahdali ...... Italian, Al-Muhaireen .. 777101/3 Amal Hospital ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560 Al Hikma Modern Hospital The Arab Centre for Heart and Specia Princess Basma Hospital Greek Catholic Hospital Ibn Al Nafees Hospital ... ... (03)314111

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL **AIRPORT** 

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

ternational Airport Tel. (III)53200-

**ARRIVALS** Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

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DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

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**MARKET PRICES** 

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#### minister visits US

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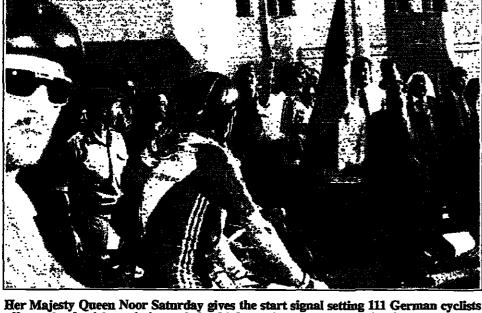
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She explains that she was motivated by the fact that Enropeans not only appreciated her paintings, but



off on a fund raising mission to help children with cancer (photo by Crystal)

## Tour Peiper presents Al Amal Cancer Centre with \$180,000 donation to children's division

By Beatrix Immenkamp Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At a ceremony at Al-Amal Cancer Centre (ACC) yesterday afternoon, a group of 111 German cyclists on a 700-kilometre cycle trip through Jordan and Israel presented Her Majesty Queen Noor with a checque in the amount of DM250,000 (\$180,000) for the ACC's children'sdivision.

The group, cycling under the name of Tour Peiper, has made a tradition over the past 10 years of demonstrating their commitment and eagerness to help the fight against childhood cancer by riding their bicycles, demonstrating their compassion for children with cancer by exerting physical effort, according to the

group's press release. In doing so, they believe they create public awareness and concern, in addition to offering contributions to childhood cancer treatment and research, not only in Germany, but around the world.

Headed by Professor Fritz Lampert, chief of the Department of Ambulatory Paediatrics and Haematology/Oncology at the Chilversity of Giessen in Germany, the group is made up of Olympic gold-medalists, well-known doctors, politicians, media personalities and other prominent German individuals, in addition to former cancer

The group calls itself Tour Peiper after Albrecht Peiper, the father of paediatric neurology, who dedicated his life and work to helping children with can-

According to Prof. Lam-

pert, the aim of the visit to the ACC is not only to make the one-time donation, but also to offer technical assistance and "knowhow" by helping to set up laboratories at the centre. training of the centre's employees and providing

information on new kinds

of therapies and treatment

methods. "In addition to that, the group wants to show compassion with children with leukemia and lymphatic cancer by making the physical effort of cycling 700kilometres through desert terrain," Mr. Lampert said in an interview with the Jordan Times.

"Hopefully, this will stimulate other persons to also donate to the admirable Al-Amal Cancer Centre, which was created through the individual sacrifices of Jordanians on a purely volun-tary basis," he added.

The ACC, a 113-bed medical facility located pear the Jordan University Hospital, will be formally opened on Nov. 14 as part of Jordan's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's 60th birthday.
The ACC, which will

operate as a private centre, is planning to offer services others in the Arab region, Abdullah Khatib, president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), which is the "foster parent" of the ACC, was quoted as saying in the

local press earlier this year. The Tour Peiper donation to the ACC was collected from sponsors and participants of the tour. The largest individual sum of DM 40,000 (U\$ 30,000) was given by the German branch of the Ronald McDonald Child Help

that as a result of her exhi-

bitions they found an inter-

Europeans to come to a bet-

ter understanding of the

Arab World," she says. "I

can honestly say that sever-

al people made their first journey to this region as a

result of the first exhibi-

Ms. Venn-Brown finds

Charity, set up by the McDonald's fast-food restaurant chain.

Queen Noor was received at the ceremony by His Royal Highness Prince Raid Ben Zeid, President of the General Union of Voluntary Societies Abdullah Khatib, Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi, German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reiners and members of the GUVS Executive Council. When it was time to mount up for the first tour, the Queen gave the start signa, and off went Tour Peiper participants on

their 37-kilometre ride through the streets of Amman. They will later make their way via Mada-ba, Karak, Petra and Wadi Rum to Aqaba, stopping along the way to visit Jordan's archaeological and historical sites before crossing into Israel via Eilat.

Riding north along the shores of the Dead Sea, the group will end their journey in Jerusalem, where they will make a donation to the Israel Cancer Association in Jerusalem. Yet another donation will

go to the Caritas Baby Hospital in Bethlehem, which caters to the Palestinian population.

cycle-ride as "a good-will frontier crossing action for international cooperation". "I always dreamt of going around the Dead Sea, crossing

borders between countries which were bitterly opposed to one another in the past, to show that one can combine energies for a higher purpose."

This is the group's first visit to the Middle East. Earlier tours have led them to several Eastern European countries, including Russia, on similar humanitarian missions.

An 'Arab Diary' unfolds through time and colour

# Information panel formed for MENA summit

Kawar describes proposed projects for submission to economic conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday announced the formation of an information committee entrusted with overall supervision of information during the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference due to start here on Oct 29. A statement from the

Prime Ministry said the committee will be chaired by Ministry of Information Secretary General Nayef Maula and will be comprised of Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary
General Mohammad Smadi, the directors of Jordan Television and Radio Jordan, Nasser Judeh and Hashem Khreisat, Director

of the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington, D.C. Rania Atalla, Advisor to the Prime Ministry Bassem Awadallah, Director of the International Press Office at the Royal Court Sally Khalaf and representatives of the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

According to the statement Mr. Maula, Dr. Smadi, Ms. Atallah and Dr. Awadallah will serve as official spokespersons for the MENA conference. Meanwhile Minister of Transport Samir Kawar said Saturday that his min-

istry will submit to the MENA conference several transport projects. The projects, he said, cater to the regional needs of the com-

ing stage in terms of general transport and the transportation of goods and pas-

Mr. Kawar said tthe projects include the construction of railways, bridges, roads as well as the development of airports and the port in the Gulf of Aqaba. He said the projects

include the construction of the Shidieh-Wadi Araba line, which is estimated to cost \$58 million and aimed at linking Shidieh with the Hijaz Railway and Aqaba to facilitate the transportation of phosphate, potash and other goods to and from

Mr. Kawar said proposed bridge projects are intended to link Jordan with areas under the Palestine National Authority as well as with Israel.

He said such projects include the reconstruction of the Sheikh Hussein Bridge at an estimated cost of \$9.6 million, the King Hussein Bridge at an estimated cost of \$14.2 million and the King Abdullah Bridge at \$14.2 million as well as the Prince Mohammad Bridge at \$10.6 mil-

According to Mr. Kawar road projects include linking Irbid with North Shupeh for \$19 million, the Agaba coastline road for \$27 million, the Kufr Huda-Damia road for \$31 million and the North Shuneh-South Shuneh road for \$106

Referring to the port at Agaba, the minister said the proposed project calls for the construction of a multipurpose wharf at an estimated cost of \$30 million and a \$15 million passengers quay.

Speaking about the changes planned for the Aqaba Airport, Mr. Kawar said the ministry has already awarded a feasibility study on converting the. existing airport into a regional facility to an American consultancy firm which will also prepare the necessary designs for the

#### Results of inquest into schoolboy's death to be released — authorities

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—The results of almost two weeks of investigations into the death of a 15-year-old student from Kuteibah School in Jabal Hashemi is expected to be announced soon, according to Ministry of Education

Investigations by police and ministry officials as well as forensic experts are now complete, and the causes of the schoolboy's death will soon be made available, the sources told the Jordan Times Saturday. There were conflicting

reports over Ala' Abu Sumaya's death, a 10th grader, who was killed on Sept. 25 during a school break, according to official

Sources said Ala, one of 1,000 students at the school, left his class for recess outdoors at approximately 10:25 a.m. By 10:30, Ala' was rushed to

"Horror of Dracula," at

the American Center, at

"Life of Gamal Abdul

Shoman Foundation at

Nasser," at Abdul Hameed

LECTURE

"Health issues of interest

to women," by Dr. Nawal

Fariz, at the AUB Alumni

5.00p.m.

6:00 p.m.

Club at 7:30 p.m.

**EXHIBITIONS** 

\*Paintings by Janet Venn-

Brown at Alia Art Gallery.

\* Works by Luis Azcarate

at Instituto Cervantes,

\*A Retrospective Exhibi-

Drawings by Mona Saudi

tion of Sculptures and

at Darat Al Funun.

Tabal Amman.

Al Bashir Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival, official sources

However, according to some of Ala's schoolmates. the teenager was assaulted by a group of 12th graders. No teachers were in the school yard when the incident occurred, according to student witnesses. Ministry officials had said that teachers are required to stay in the class room until all their students have left for recess.

Ministry officials and police interrogated more than 100 students and have been receiving conflicting reports concerning the inci-

According to confirmed sources, police are holding two suspects in-connection with the incident. Police further comment.
His Royal Highness

Crown Prince: Hassan last week visited the Abu Sumaya family to offer his condolences.

# State Security Court to open trial in sabotage case

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN-The trial of six people known as "Islamic Revivalists" accused of sabotage opens today at the State Security Court.

All six defendants will be formally charged with illegal possession and manufacturing of explosive materials for illicit use. According to the prosecu-

tor general's charge sheet, the group, which started gathering members in 1990, was planning to carry out attacks against foreigners in Jordan using explosives and automatic weapons.

But the group was apprehended before they actually carried out the attack. The Central Intelligence were tipped off on March 10, 1995 on the group's activi-

But according to Israeli press reports recently, the group. "Islamic Revival", was behind a recent infiltration across the northern Jordanian-Israeli borders.

Two of the infiltrators were shot dead and the third surrendered, Israeli reports said. There was no official Jordanian confirmation of the Israeli reports. The prosecutor general's charge sheet also did not include this inci-

Recently, the State Security Court amounced that on Oct. 18 it would begin the trial of two Jordanians accused of an attack on a French diplomat in Wadi

Salem : Abdullah Ahmad Qassem, both 22, were arrested after a Feb. 14 incident in which a French diplomat was shot and wounded in the Wadi Mujib area.

The formal against the two included "plotting to carry out extremist attacks, possessing illegal arms and explosives, and manufacturing hand-made explosives."

The court also set Oct. 22 to hear the case of a group known as Bay'at Al Imam (Pledge of allegiance to the leader), a group accused of plotting terrorist attacks in

The group consists of 13 men. Seven of them were captured before actually carrying out any attacks and were formally charged with sabotage on Sept. 5.

The charge sheet against them includes illegal possession and manufacturing of explosive materials with the purpose of using them

## 'Council of Islamic Organisations and Societies blasts 'excesses' in government

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman-based Council of Islamic Organisations and Societies (CIOS) Saturday issued a call on the government to introduce urgent domestic reforms which it said would win Jordan's people and the country's democracy further appreciation and credibility from other nations.

In its eight-point statement circulated to the local press. CIOS criticised the government for having 31 cabinet ministers. It stated that such a large number of ministers together with their offices. vehicles, secretaries, travel expenses and salaries constitute a significant burden to the

The statement noted that Japan, with its 120 million inhabitants, has only 20 cabinet members.

The statement, signed by CIOS Secretary General Abdul Latif Subeihi, criticised serving ministers for abusing public trust by giving preference to their relatives in appointments in government posts, by appointing a great number of advisors whose work is lax and who spend the day reading newspapers and yet are entitled to high salaries from the state treasury and the taxpay-

The statement referred to the increasing number of incidents and cases of fraud and embezzlement of public funds in state offices and public firms as was reported by the Audit Bureau. It said the increase in committee continues under the new era of freedom and democracy The statement referred to

news reports in the local press about alleged actions by senior government officials and influential people who seize state-owned land not for the purpose of development and agricultural production but for

The statement, which was issued following the ClOS board meeting, said the board members believe the Kingdom's wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few constituting 15 per cent of the population, with the rest living near or below the poverty line at a time when taxes are on the

While the government shows continued failure to control the numbers of guest workers in the country, the statement said, unemployment and poverty are on the rise. CIOS had repeatedly called

on the government to control the local labour market, but promises were never fulfilled. the statement said. The statement noted that the

Ministry of Education bears most of the blame for its failure to apply a system whereby most young people can enter vocational centres in order to learn trades that would prepare them for the job market.

The statement said that the existence of more than 50 community colleges and 11 universities is aggravating the situation by graduating unskilled and untrained young men and women.

#### est in Iraq as a country. She entitled her next exhi-AMMAN - Urban landbition in Rome in 1982 "An scape artist Janet Venn-Arab Journey." "I hoped that in my own Brown today opens her second exhibition here, "An limited field I could belp

#### By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Arab Diary," a collection of her paintings from around the Arab World. 'Urbanscape' art, as Ms.

originally Venn-Brown, from Australia but now based in Rome, calls it, is the theme of her figurative Painted in guache, which

is similar to watercolour, colour a driving point for her painting themes. The the collection dates back some time ago from visits made to Oman, Tunis, Arab villages she depicts are characterised by their hues. Jerusalem is pink and Irag, yellow, somewhat orangey. Temen and Jordan. Ms. Venn-Brown's conwith the influence of sunset nection to the Arab World

started in 1978, when she was invited to Iraq to paint "It's in the shadows, that and exhibit. Since then, she has found a double purpose "I don't believe that artists should be necessarily politically involved, and any painting I do is entirely

based on my own aesthetic values and creative needs. But when I realise that my paintings can perhaps have an additional purpose, then I'm happy to pursue this aim as well."

you find colour," Ms. Venn-Brown says. "Strong light takes out the colour.

In Oman, pink hues take over in the ancient walls of its old capital, Nazwa. Mud-red characterises the old architecture of Sana'a as well as that of baked earth dwellings in the villages of

Ms. Venn-Brown places today's visual reality in direct contrast with the revered past. TV antennaes loom over

the rooftops in Jerusalem's

old quarters. Air condition-

ing units just out of ancient

earth-baked bouses. Kuwait, the strongest in contrast effects, shows a uniquely old quarter, artdeco style, built in the 20s. In another painting of the same area in Kuwait, dark

overhead in the background, a piece of spacetech architecture taking over the past. But the big twist in Ms. Venn-Brown's purpose in holding her exhibition here

is her ultimate desire to see

blue 'bail' towers protrude

Amman, by Janet Venn-Brown the paintings return to their original 'place'.

Just as in the purpose to use her medium to bring Europeans closer to the Arab World, so "in a different way, I hope Arabs will be equally responsive to my work," she says.

"I see these paintings, apart from their artistic value, as an important historic record, and I would prefer them to remain in this part of the world, rather than be lost in the myriads of paintings destined to be forgotten in the overstocked Western world," she says.

Ms. Venn-Brown's exhibition includes three oil paintings; one is an interior of an old house in Amman; the other two are of Nablus and Jerusalem. Her first exhibition in Amman was in 1986.

The exhibition runs until Oct. 22 at the Alia Art

#### ANNOUNCEMENT THE CENTRAL BANK OF JORDAN

In accordance with article (28-B) of the Central Bank of Jordan law No. (23) of 1971, the Central Bank of Jordan will put in circulation, as from Oct. 16. 1995, a new coin of the denomination (1 Dinar) to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The new 1 Dinar coin is legal tender and will circulate alongside the bank notes and coins issued according to the Bylaw of Issuance of Jordanian Currency No. (28) year 1992.

Denomination: 1 Dinar Alloy: 5.5% Nickel, 24.5% Zinc, 70% Copper

Diameter: 32 mm Thickness: 2.1 mm Weight: 12.4 gm Shape: Heptagonal

Edge: Plain The obverse of the new coin bears an effigy of His Majesty King Hussein encircled by the two phrases "Hussein Bin Talal", "The King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in Arabic.

The logo of the FAO.

The denomination (one Dinar) written in Arabic and English.

The reverse incorporates:

- The Hejira and Gregorian dates of issue. The phrase "The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in English.

# Major emerges from party conference with self-confidence

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major Conservative Party's annual conference to remind the opposition Labour Party, which is far ahead in the opinion polls, that he is still a force to be reckoned with.

Speaking with confidence and passion that often elude him, Mr. Major closed the conference Friday with a speech that drew on his own humble beginnings and was regarded as one of his best

Political commentators from both left and right said his summer gamble in challenging critics to stand him in a Conservative leadership election had paid off.

It also served as a warning that despite his party's 30 point deficit in the polls, off in the general election that must be held by mid-

"In country and party alike, the prevailing view is that only a miracle can save the Conservatives at the next election. By the time he (Major) sat down, he had given reasonable hope for doubting the new common sense," the Independent said in an editorial Saturday.

The Daily Telegraph said Mr. Major "exuded a confidence which demonstrated his renewed grip on the Conservatives.

And Hugo Young, politi-cal writer with left-leaning Guardian newspaper, said Mr. Major had rescued a dismal week for the party with the modest, unmanufactured tone of his speech which "made his colleagues look like strutting pyg-

The Conservative conference got off to an awkward start after last weekend's defection to Labour of former Junior Minister Alan Howarth, who accused his colleagues of arrogance after 16 years in power.

A jingoistic speech by Defence Secretary Michael Portillo which belittled Britain's European partners infuriated European Union leaders and annoyed some Conservatives.

Home Secretary Michael Howard angered judges by telling them to impose longer, tougher sentences on violent criminals.

Mr. Major pledged to lower taxes, put 5,000 more police on the streets and double the cash set aside to send poor children to private schools.

But it was the tone rather than the content of his

boosting Mr. Major's image as a caring, decent man, proud of his father's struggle to keep alive a small business making garden

people have "Some always found that very funny. I don't. I see the proud, stubborn, independent old man who...Taught me to love my country, fight for my own and spit in the eye of malign fate", Mr. Major said.

The Daily Telegraph commented that Labour, which has revamped its policies under young vibrant Tony Blair, must still be considered favourite to win the next election.

But as others have discovered before, Mr Major's powers of recovery should never be underestimated," it

Gore urges

U.S. to help

Russia's

reformers

SAN FRANCISCO (R) —

Vice President Al Gore

made an impassioned plea

Friday for America to help

Russia's reformers and

warned that congressional

moves to cut off aid could

lead to an ultra-nationalist

Democracy and free mar-

kets are taking root so deeply in Russia that the

transition from commu-

nism will be successful in

the long run, Mr. Gore said

in a speech at the

Commonwealth Club, a

But he said if the United

States threatened Russia

and Congress voted to cut

December parliamentary

elections, "Then we will

feed the forces of extrem-

ism there and we will

chances that ultra-national-

ists will gain control,

potentially, of their Duma

Mr. Gore said the United

States had an interest in

Russia's prosperity and a

stake in the sovereignty of

(legislature)."

enhance

all aid before

current affairs forum.

backlash there.



Arsovski sign an agreement on the normalisation of relations between their two countries in the capital of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (AFP photo)

## Greece lifts Macedonia embargo

ATHENS (AFP) — Greece Greek province, and to its lifted early Saturday an embargo it imposed on Macedonia 20 months ago in a move easing tension between the two Balkan states, but remains at loggerheads with the former Yugoslav republic over its

The economic blockade was lifted at midnight, the Greek government said in a communique. It had been in effect since Feb. 16, 1994. It follows an accord

signed on Sept. 13 in New York by Athens and Skopje to resolve differences over Macedonia's constitution. flag and name.

They signed a "memorandum" Friday in Skopje on measures to implement the New York agreement and open a new era in relations between the two countries," an official Greek source told AFP.

The row centred on objections by Athens to the ex-Yugoslav republic calling itself Macedonia, the same name as that of northern

flag and constitution which Greece claimed implied expansionist aims.

A Greek government source said that "drawing up practical measures ready to allow complete normal circulation will take two or three days" and that "talks on signing the memorandum were concluded at the last minute."

The pro-government Ta Nea paper in Skopje said the U.S. charge d'affaires had intervened Friday to speed up the process.

At the Evzones border post, a customs official said no official directive to lift the embargo" had been sent to them, "we heard the news on the radios," he added, "but we are ready."

Extra teams of customs and border officials were Friday despatched to cope with the extra bureaucratic

The only remaining problem is the name Macedonia

itself. Greece refuses to

Comoros mercenaries in French custody

insists on calling its neigh-bour the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. That in turn poses bureau-

cratic issues which negotiators hope to resolve in a raft of talks on the theme beginning next week.

Meanwhile Greek business leaders welcomed the lifting of the embargo. 'We're expecting lots of

businessmen to head toward Skopje Monday, to see around and make contacts." Haralambos Filadarlis, deputy director of a Union of Industrialists in Salonica in northern Greece, told

"We should be reopening oil supplies as from next week," Jet Oil President Nikos Mamidakis said, with unrefined petroleum due to be delivered to a Skopje refinery which had to close during the embargo.

More than 90 per cent of Macedonian imports of oil before February 1994 went through Salonica. In 1993, Jet Oil supplied 1.5 million recognise that name and

#### BANGKOK. Thailand (AP) - They've seen

Thais brave floods

to see Waterworld

Work

more than enough water this year, but Thais continued flooding Friday to watch Waterworld, the Kevin Costner film about a loner's search for dry land in a world covered with water. Yet another thunderstorm in Bangkok Friday brought a reminder that while the movie may be a futuristic thriller for audiences elsewhere, it's not all that strange for Thais. Especially bad monsoon floods the past three months have turned many streets across Thailand into shallow rivers; where pickups once charged, hastilybuilt wooden boats are paddled. The tide brings in pythons washed out of undergound holes, along with farm crocodiles freed from overflowed pens. "People in some flooded provinces might not want to see this movie." Prayoot Ketsomboon, a 25-year-old banker, said at a showing at Bangkok's Lido Theatre. "They might not want their houses to be under water for good as in the movie. They're already in had straits." Student Nantawan Champrasert, 25, said some people may want to see the movie to find out how to deal with the floods. Said Chanva Boonchuay, a 28-year-old saleswoman, "those who have experienced the flooding, they may not want to see any movie, not just this one." There may be a grain of truth to that in badly flooded areas like Nakhon Sawan province north of Bangkok. "If we show this movie in Nakhon Sawan, the residents may not come to see it because wherever they look, it's all floods, all water. They may not want to see anything about water," said an official in the marketing division of the film's distributor, United International Pictures.

#### Rap musician released on bail

LOS ANGELES (R) musician Shakur has been released from prison on \$1.4 million bail, just eight months after a judge sentenced him to a jail term of up to 4-1/2 years for sexual assault, his publicist said. "He's out on bail and here in Los Angeles. I had dinner with him last night," said George Pryce at Death Row Records, the controversial rap label that has just signed the singer. Shakur, a multi-million selling "gangsta" rapper and occasional movie actor who goes by the stage name 2Pac, was handed a maximum 18-month to 4-1/2 year jail term in February for sexually assaulting a woman in a New York hotel room. Along with his road manager Charles Fuller, Shakur was convicted of the assault last December, but acquitted of the more serious charges of sodomy and criminal weapons possession. At sentencing, Judge Daniel Fitzgerald of Manhattan Supreme Court declined Shakur's request for bail pending an appeal. Mr. Pryce said he did not know why Shakur was released on bail, the money

#### Monogamous love is necessary — Pavarotti

for which was put up by

Death Row chief executive

Suge Knight.

ROME (AFP) - Opera megastar Luciano Pavarotti swore his undying commitment to monogamy as a sacrifice necessary for his art, sweeping aside rumours of dalliance with his 26-year-old secretary. "Women have always given me love and security. but a singer must make sacrifices and endure abstinence in every sense of the word... I am incredibly monogamous, Pavarotti said. However, abstinence for the opera star who turns 60 Thursday, does not stretch to gastronomic

## Seoul cautions allies against improving ties with N. Korea

SEOUL (Agencies) — Korean Foreign Minister Gong Ro-Myung warned allies Friday to exercise caution in improving ties with isolationist North Korea.

The cautionary word came after South Korean President Kim Young-Sam was quoted earlier this week as saying improvements in Japan-North Korea ties could impede Seoul's own efforts at improving ties with the North.

considers the Seoul friendly gestures north's toward Japan and the United States as attempts to snub South Korea. The North considers its capitalist rival a U.S. puppet, and has rebuffed friendly ges-

"We would like to see countries friendly to us to be more cautions," Mr. Gong said at a news brief-

attempts could affect the stability of the Korean peninsula, but did not elabo-

 Earlier this month, Tokyo successfully negotiated a deal to provide 200,000 tons of rice to North Korea on easy repayment terms, while a similar offer by Seoul had deadlocked.

Reports have said Tokyo and Pyongyang were also

talks on normalising ties. The two countries currently do not recognise each other.

North korea has also reportedly invited Taiwan's vice economics minister to Pyongyang to improve trade ties. North korea recognises Beijing, and does not have diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

with Taiwan when it established diplomatic relations with Beijing in 1992. With no peace treaty signed at the end of the

Seoul cut off its own ties

1950-53 Korean War, the two Koreas remain technically at war. In the past year, the North has called on Washington to

negotiate a peace treaty. U.S.-led U.N. forces had fought on behalf of Seoul during the war. While North Korea seeks to exclude Seoul from the

peace process, South Korea has maintained that it is an integral part of any peace Mr. Blix said. Meanwhile the head of the International Atomic

Energy Agency (IAEA) said Friday that North Korea had refused to allow investigators to measure spent nuclear fuel to clear up discrepancies over plutonium

IAEA Director General Hans Blix, who presented a report on North Korea to the U.N. Security Council moving toward restarting Friday, said that North

Korean authorities were giving the IAEA only "tolerable cooperation" in access to its Nyongbyon

North Korea has agreed to freeze its suspect nuclear programme in exchange for two light-water reactors provided by a U. S.led con-

Negotiations for that are still going on in New York, and are scheduled to move to a higher level Monday. Before the reactors are completed, North Korea must submit to IAEA

inspection under a safe-

guards agreement to make

sure Pyongyang develops no nuclear weapons in the "They have not been willing to clarify the inconsistencies which we discovered when we concluded that there was more plutoni-

um than they had declared," "So in this res conclusion is that they are still in noncompliance with the safeguards agreement." Mr. Blix said the North Koreans expressed willingness to study the list, but

have given no reply.

He also said IAEA investigators wanted to examine plutonium levels in spent fuel as it came out of the Soviet-era graphite reactor North Korea says was used only for civilian purposes.

the newly-independent states of the former Soviet Union. "An insecure and faltering Russia could become prey to simplistic political appeals for expansionism as the remedy for internal problems ... We must help Russia's reformers pre-

forces. Engagement is crucial," be said. Mr. Gore urged U.S. officials and members of Congress "to seize this rare historical moment and rise to the great new challenge of American leadership, to keep America and interests American

empt such regressive

engaged in Russia and throughout the world..." The speech is the first of three Mr. Gore will give focusing on Russia before the summit between President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin in the United States

later this month. Mr. Gore said there were a "disturbing number of voices on Capitol Hill calling for America's retreat and disengagement from the world." some members of Congress wanted to severely reduce or eliminate parts of Mr. Clinton's assistance package to

Sen. Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican who chairs Senate Appropriations Subcommittee dealing with the package, has threatened to ban all assistance to Russia unless Russia cancels plans to sell a nuclear reactor to Iran, Mr. Gore said. Mr. Gore said Mr.

Russia, he said.

Clinton and he were working aggressively with Saturday. Russia to try to prevent the The daily cited unnamed reactor sale and he was ministry sources as saying optimistic a solution will that the planes would be equipped with state-of-thebe found.

PARIS (R) - Mercenaries by the islands' government jailed for violating the and led in handcuffs to a

all of them French nation-

Mr. Denard's mercenary force and army rebels overdiers intervened

"Operation Azelea". two women, were expelled

terms of a five-year suspended prison sentence barring him from leaving the permission.

French troops took Mr. Djohar to the French Indian Ocean island of La Reunion, leaving Prime Minister Caabi Elyachroutu as interim head of state.

Mr. Djohar has said he wants to return home to continue ruling Comoros and take part in presidential scheduled for next year.

## Haiti premier to quit in rift with Aristide

Haitian Prime Minister Smarck Michel is resigning over policy differences with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a source close to Mr. Michel said Friday.

Michel submitted his letter of resignation Tuesday, but agreed to delay its effective date and an announcement Monday, after the visits of U.S. Vice-President Al Gore and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

Mr. Gore and Dr. Ghali are due in Haiti this weekend to celebrate the first anniversary of Mr. Aristide's return from a three-year exile that followed a military coup.

Mr. Michel was disappointed Mr. Aristide failed to back him on an important economic plan, which he presented to sceptical colleagues at a cabinet meeting Monday, the source said.

economy was contained in a letter to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Without that letter the country will miss out on much of \$100 million in promised aid and face a severe economic crisis, Mr. Michel told a news conference last month. "There will be immediate

consequences for everything, to pay for state salaries, to pay for education, to carry out projects," he said.

A spokeswoman for Mr. Aristide said it was inappropriate for the president to lobby for support of the plan, even though his prime minister considered it cru-

"Mr. Aristide was clearly a referee and they (members of the cabinet) could not come to a consensus and sign a letter of intent," The plan for restructuring the spokeswoman told

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — the impoverished country's reporters Friday. "The ceive it right now."

The parliament is composed largely of Aristide allies from the Lavalas Movement where there are demands for changes in the plan which they fear could lead to greater unemployment.

Minister Minister nent of privatisation, observers said.

The plan to restructure the

## Russia's Mikoyan wins contract to upgrade India's ageing MiG-21 fleet

NEW DELHI (AFP) -art equipment manufactured by U.S and Israeli firms. British, U.S., French and Israeli companies had been in the race for the contract, the daily said.

integrated in the helmet the pilot wears, is primarily due

to some of the (Israelis)

technological innovations being way ahead of the Americans."

agreed that while they would be paid for the total upgrade package, they would British and Israeli equipment to integrate these into the aircraft." the sources

#### Russian officers join electoral battle to bolster armed forces MOSCOW (AFP) - A feed its soldiers," the paper Baltin, commander of the small army of Russian solwent on, saying many units Russian Black Sea Fleet. diers is gearing up for a parwere already "eating

liamentary election battle in a campaign to gain support — and food — for the beleagured former Red Army.
Officers are standing for

election all over Russia with the overt backing of their superiors and hints of financial help from the Ministry of Defence. Russian Defence Minister

Pavel Grachev, who said late September he aimed to put forward more than 100 high-ranking officers, set up an internal commission to "ensure the smooth running of the election."

It oversees the selection of candidates and, although not officially giving financial support, a ministry source said it provides the army cash to arrange voting within barracks which can be spent at unit commanders' discretion.

The stated goal is to get deputies into the parliament who "support the army on legislative questions."

The military say they have been forgotten in the new

The army daily Krasnaya Zvesda wrote Thursday that next year's draft defence budget of \$17.5 billion did not "correspond to the needs of the army."

reserves meant in case of

Gen. Gracbev's candidates are not the only military officers up for election on Dec. 17. Alexander Lebed, the for-

mer 14th Army commander in Moldova and now a rising political star, is number two on a nationalist list while General Lev Rokhlin, "hero" of the Battle for Grozny, is number three on the Our Home Is Russia list of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

There are also scores of officers standing for more obscure parties.

"Most of these candidacies express the disarray of a badly-led institution," a Western observer Moscow said. "What does the army have left apart from its size? That is what it wants to bring into play, as a lobby force."

General Yevgeni Podkolzin, commander of Russian airborne forces and second on the nationalist For The Mother Country list, said he wants to "preserve what remains after the collapse of the USSR" by

"opposing military reform." Those who do not want to give their army anything to eat will end up being "Few Russians realise that devoured themselves soontoday the army has to face er or later," said his party up to one question: How to colleague Admiral Eduard

"It's normal for the army to be a political instrument since it was created to resolve internal and exter-

nal problems by military means," he added. Gen. Lebed, while warning of the need to be wary of officers who did not stand, was more fatalistic: "In civilised countries, the army should not get mixed up in politics. But we can't count our country among

the civilised any more." Few observers however believe the military will do very well. Not a single officer was elected in a local ballot in Volgograd in southern Russia in early October.

To create a parliamentary group we need at least 35 deputies, and I doubt as many military will enter the Duma" (lower chamber of parliament), a Defence Ministry official said. He said there was equally

little chance that the bestknown officers would want to form an alliance. Dmitri Trenin, of the Carnegie Endowment think-tank, said

Ministry of Defence was

perhaps simply trying to

"take the soldiers votes

away from their favourite candidates:" Communists, or the ultranationalists of Vladimir

involved in the failed coup led by soldier of fortune chartered French govern-Bob Denard in the Comoro ment aircraft. Islands were placed in custody after being flown to ies has been variously put at France Saturday, Radio between 25 and 35, nearly

France Info reported. The radio said they were taken into custody by French Gendarmes after landing in Paris aboard an

of the report was immediately available. Witnesses in the Comoros capital Moroni said Friday the mercenaries, including

No official confirmation

air force C-160 aircraft.

The number of mercenar-

threw the government of President Said Mohammad Dhjohar on Sept. 28, but the coup collapsed a week later after about 500 French sol-

Mr. Denard was flown to France last weekend and

whole country is against privatisation as they per-

> Once Mr. Michel's resignation takes effect Monday, Mr. Aristide must choose a replacement. Leading contenders are Foreign Affairs Claudette Werleigh and Planning Jean-Marie Cherestal, a leading oppo-

> economy would require selling nine government-owned businesses, including the telephone and electrical companies, a concrete manufacturing plant and a

India's Defence Ministry has awarded a prestigious \$468-million contract to Mikoyan of Russia to upgrade its ageing fleet of MiG-21 BIS fighter jets, the Pioneer newspaper said

"The Indian Air Force's insistence on Israeli equipment, particularly in the head-up display, which is

"The Russians have purchase U.S., pleasures. Thais brave flood to see Waterworld

ANGKOK Thailat (AP) They ve we more than enough water this year, but This conguent of the death of the trial watch Hatemorld Kevin Cosiner film about hence is search for dry ha in a world covered by water Vet another thinks shown in Bangkok Fide prought a remader of while the movie may be

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Champrasen 25. g some people may was see the movie to find a how to skill with t flevel. and that Boombany, a 28-years while we man those of have experienced a therefore they make WHAT I'V CO HAY BURNET test the one. There in the another of multipolity built Post I was a Nakhoti Sawati prote month of Bondok Tps About the market Saware the fronting great costs for sombeau where of the loading there's a see them

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art. weeping for members of the Jammu his to you add wife Kashmir State green me leve mident Assembly and offices of two civil servants. but a smeet mask Lieutenant General J.S. sacrifices and ending Dhillon, the highest-ranking mence in every some officer in Jammu and word merch seller make money amount. medicional data described the attempt Friday night when they captured four militants with explosives in the state's summer capital of state's summer capital of Kashmir, told reporters his

Srinagar. "These explosives were for blowing up the MLA (Members of the Legislative Assembly) hostel, the secre-

tariat and the DC's (divisional commissioner's) office in Srinagar," he said. The secretariat houses the offices of the state's senior civil servants, while the divisional commissioner is the senior administrator for

Srinagar.

Gen. Dhillon said the four belonged to the Hizbul Mujahiddin group, who are campaigning for the territo- plant a bomb there on

ry's merger with Pakistan. "One of the arrested said he was the divisional commander of the Hizbul Mujahiddin group," Gen. Dhillon said, adding that the militant, Bashir Ahmad

Lone, was an explosives expert. Based on leads provided by those arrested, the army also identified and detained four other militants, Gen.

Dhillon said. He alleged two militants had air tickets to Delhi for Sunday and had planned to

Indian army 'foils' Kashmir explosives attacks Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Light, which falls on Oct.

India's Jammu and Kashmir state has suffered unrest since 1990 and over 20,000 people have been killed since then.

Pakistan holds one-third of Kashmir and India the rest. Kashmir has been the cause of two of the three wars India and Pakistan have fought against each other since gaining independence from Britain in 1947.

# Russia premier says Moscow to stick to Chechen peace path

MOSCOW (R) - Prime Minister Viktor Chemomyrdin Saturday Russia would stick to its plan for a peaceful set-tlement in Chechenya despite provocations by supporters of rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

"Everything will be done to resolve the conflict in Chechenya by peaceful means. You will not push us towards war with provoca-tions," TASS quoted Mr. Chemomyrdin as saying after meeting Russian pen-

sioners. Mr. Chernomyrdin said provocations by Mr. Dudayev "cannot force Russia to break off the peace process".

His words echoed President Boris Yeltsin, who said Friday Russia would not stray from the path of peace, however much it was pushed by Mr. Dudayev. Tension has risen in

Chechenya since last week's attempted assassination of Russian military commander Lieutenant-General Anatoly Romanov.

Both sides have since suspended implementation of a military agreement meant to stop the fighting and to lead to disarmament of the rebels in exchange for the withdrawal of most Russian тгоорз.

Meanwhile shooting flared overnight in the Chechen capital Grozny and the Russian military command said Saturday tension had risen sharply throughout the breakaway republic, ITAR-TASS news agency report-

"The situation in the republic has become more acute," the agency quoted a Russian forces statement as saying. A TASS correspondent said firing had continued in Grozny from midnight until just before dawn. Interfax News Agency quoted a Russian forces spokesman as saying one Russian serviceman had been killed in the previous 24 hours. Federal forces had come under fire 48 times and had returned fire, inflicting loss-

The top international mediator in Chechenya was

es on the rebels.

slightly injured in a car accident in Grozny Friday and taken to a hospital for treatment, Interfax News Agency said.

A car carrying Sandor Meszaros, head of the mission of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), was struck by a lorry and flipped over. Interfax said, citing unconfirmed reports.

He and another OSCE official injured in the wreck were taken to a local hospial, where Mr. Meszaros described the accident as an "irritating occurance", the

agency said.
OSCE mission members in Grozny as a rule use clearly marked armoured jeeps and it was not clear from the Interfax report whether Mr. Meszaros was in one of them.

Officials at the OSCE mission declined to comment on the incident until the circumstances had been inves-

An OSCE official was killed in a car accident in the former Soviet Republic of Georgia last year.

Mr. Meszaros has been helping mediate a peace settlement between separatist Chechen rebels and Russian forces.

Despite rising tensions in Chechenya, President Yeltsin said Friday that Russia won't rekindle war in the breakaway republic.

Both sides in the conflict have accused each other of broken faith and "provocations."

Mr. Yeltsin, who has been urged by his military leadership to crack down on Chechenya, made his comments Friday in an opening address to a meeting of regional governors.

"The political stability of Russia as a whole depends on what the situation will be in Chechenya," the president said.

Although Russian troops have captured virtually all of Chechenya and largescale fighting has ceased, sporadic clashes and nightly sniper fire continue to claim

## Bonn, Paris must unite on EU integration — Kinkel

in 1999.

A Chechen woman tands in the yard of her house that was destroyed by a Russian air raid on the village of Roshni-

BONN (R) — Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel acknowledged Germany and France differed over the future of European integration but insisted the neighbours at the heart of the European Union will find common ground and press ahead.

chu in the Urus-Martan region (AFP photo)

Mr. Kinkel also told a meeting of Foreign Policy Societies in the southwestern town of Offenburg that he would meet his French colleague Herve De Charette next month in Paris to plan a joint push towards binding the EU more closely.

"Of course close friends and partners have differing interests and differences of opinion," he said, according to the text of his speech released in Bonn.

But because of their pivotal position in the union "Bonn and Paris must try

... to find potential compro-

hunger strike in prison

Saturday after officials

failed to respond to his

appeals for medical help

and access to his bank

"He told me that if the

authorities gave no response

by Oct. 13 then he would start a hunger strike," Wang

Zhihong said by telephone.

"I can't contact him, but

they have given us no reply

and that means he is starting

his hunger strike today," she

"I call on the authorities to

stop their illegal behav-

iour...and to give me and my

family our rights," Mr.

Chen said in a statement

"black hand" behind the

democracy protests and

serving a 13-year jail term

for "counter-revolutionary"

student-led pro-

the tight-fisted

Republican-controlled U.S.

House of Representatives in

his weekly radio address

Mr. Clinton said his ad-

ministration's anti-crime bill included the violence

against women act, which

he said "combines tough

new sanctions against

abusers with assistance to

SRINAGAR, India (R) —

The Indian army said

Saturday it had foiled a bid

by Kashmiri separatists to

blow up an apartment block

Saturday.

read by his wife.

account, his wife said.

mise solutions bilaterally,"

Mr. Kinkel said. "This creates additional pressure. But the German as well as the French interest in solidarity is so strong that we are forced time and again to relegate our differences of opinion."

Germany has been keen to keep the momentum of the Maastricht process going and has produced a flurry of new proposals, initiatives and statements this week all aimed at promoting reform of the EU.

Also high on its agenda is reinforcing the German-French alliance, the EU motor that seemed to sputter after Gaullist President Jacques Chirac came to power in May, replacing staunchly pro-European Francois Mitterrand.

The Franco-German meeting reflects growing German concern that other remain each other's most EU members may not be important partner.

parole, Ms. Wang said.

The veteran dissident was

returned to the Beijing

Number Two Prison by

more than a dozen police

who entered his home in

northern Beijing on June

25, just a year after he was

released on medical parole

In his statement, Mr. Chen

linked his arrest to a sum-

mer chill in Sino-U.S. rela-

tions, which China said had

plunged to their lowest

point since they were estab-

lished in 1979, and said

police had not followed

proper procedures in rear-

His 1994 parole, granted

after he was diagnosed as

heart disease and other

medical problems, helped

China to ward off moves to

strip it of coveted U.S. trade

WASHINGTON (R) — police, to prosecutors and to had agreed to fund the pro-

"Yet at the very moment

our nation has been focused

on the abuse against women

by their husbands ... the

House of Representatives

has voted to cut \$50 million

from our efforts to protect

battered women and their

children, to preserve fami-

lies and to punish these

He noted that the Senate

crimes," Mr. Clinton said.

resting him.

privileges.

Mr. Chen, branded as a having cancer, Hepatitis B,

President Bill Clinton took shelters in the fight against

sim at domestic violence, domestic violence."

for treatment of cancer.

preparing seriously and speedily enough to make sure the Maastricht Treaty review starting next year is a success and a single currency is established on time

"The 1996 inter-governmental conference must reorganise the union in such a way that it can master the dual mission for the coming decade — taking in our Central and Eastern European neighbours and asserting ourselves economically and technologically on global markets," Mr.

Kinkel said. This will only be successful if Germany and France pull on the same rope and in the same direction. The German-French motor will be decisive, and...this motor

is not sputtering." Mr. Kinkel reiterated that Germany and France

and had not had access to

costly prescription drugs

needed to prevent the recur-

rence of chemotherapy

symptoms since his return

"His health is deteriorat-

ing," said Ms. Wang, adding

that she would stage a 24-

hour sympathy hunger

The couple's bank account

has been frozen since July

28, making it difficult to

buy medicines, said Ms.

Wang, whose last monthly

visit to her husband was on

Mr. Chen was demanding

access to the bank account

and the return of his com-

puter, fax machine and

other items confiscated

from his home by police

when he was arrested on

She said she had contacted

relevant authorities to beg

gramme fully and boped the

House would reconsider its

He stopped short of specif-

ically mentioning the O. J.

Simpson murder case,

which has brought the

issues of domestic abuse

and racial tension into the

Monday's scheduled mil-

lion man march of black

men in Washington being

led by the controversial

spotlight, or

June 25, Ms. Wang said.

to jail, Ms. Wang said.

strike Sunday.

Sept. 25.

Clinton targets domestic violence in radio address

decision.

national

Chinese dissident to start hunger strike in jail

BEIJING (R) - Leading activities, was appealing to Mr. Chen was losing for her husband's re-release

Chinese dissident Chen the authorities to release weight, had received no on medical parole but all

Ziming was to start a him again on medical proper medical treatment her pleas had been ignored.

There remains the strong will on both sides to advance integration together. Therefore I will meet Foreign Minister De Charette in Paris early in November Together we want to give the 1996 conference strong momentum,"

He insisted that France agreed with Germany that a single EU currency must be built on solid economic fundamentals to be applied even after the common currency is launched in the third stage of economic and monetary union.

"Germany and France both want a common, strong European currency. We agree that strict convergence criteria must still apply even after we enter the third stage," he said.

"I am convinced that France will take part. I cannot imagine currency union

The couple was also

demanding officials give

them results of medical tests

Mr. Chen underwent last

Doctors gave Mr. Chen a

series of tests in early

September when Ms. Wang

was effectively detained

and allowed to spend about

a month with her husband in

custody to prevent her

meeting foreign visitors during the Aug. 30-Sept. 15 Beijing World Conference

detained Ms. Wang along

with several other dissidents

during the conference to

prevent any incident that

could mar Beijing's staging

of its most prestigious inter-

national event since it

earned international con-

demnation for its bloody

1989 military crackdown on

Nation of Islam leader,

But he made an oblique

reference to recent events.

"In recent weeks, all of us

have had reason to focus on

two of the biggest problems

facing our country — the

problem of continuing

racial divisions and the

problem of violence in our

homes, violence against

women and children," Mr.

Clinton said.

Louis Farrakhan.

student demonstrators.

authorities

on Women.

Chinese

month, Ms. Wang said.

### NATO seeks contingency replacement for Claes

BRUSSELS (R) - NATO faced the prospect Saturday of finding a replacement for Secretary-General Willy Claes as he pondered resigning after a Belgian parliament commission voted to send him to court on fraud allegations.

In contrast to his past refusals to consider stepping down as allegations against him mounted, Claes — who has always mainmyo has always maintained his innocence — told RTBF radio Saturday: "It's too soon. I must examine the text, of the commission)...and think, about it before taking any decision."

Alliance diplomats said NATO ambassadors, returning from at \$100.000. ing from a NATO-Western European Union event in Turkey, would quickly con-

tact their governments for guidance. The vote, which goes to the full Belgian parliament Thursday, came at the worst possible time for the alliance as it starts pulling together the largest military force in Europe since World War II to police an eventual

peace in Bosnia.

It also puts NATO, which has praised Mr. Claes for his work during his one year in office, in the indivious position of having to pick a new chief as a contingency without appearing to support the allegations in the so-called Agusta affair.

"(Claes) indicated on radio this morning that he will wait until Thursday. We will wait for that before taking a decision," one alliance diplomat said.

The allegations against Mr. Claes, that he knew of alleged kickbacks paid in 1988 to his Flemish Socialist Party by Italian helicopter company Augusta for a lucrative contract while he was Belgian economy minister, are unprecedented for

incumbent NAIU chief. Dutchman Joseph Luns, who headed the alliance from 1971 to 1984, survived charges in Dutch newspapers that he had at one time been a neo-fascist, and Manfred Woerner -Mr. Claes's predecessor overcame political upheaval

when he was West German

defence minister. But none of the previous

seven who have guided NATO since the first one. Britain's Lord Ismay, took office in 1952 have faced judicial proceedings. If Mr. Claes does decide to

step down, his Italian deputy Sergio Silvio Balanzino will take over on an interim basis.

But given the delicate tasks NATO now faces both in Bosnia, in negotiating relations with Russia and enlarging to the East, the alliance's 16 member states will want to put a political heavyweight into office without delay.

The list of possible candidates that fit that description is short

earlier this week were Danish opposition leader and former Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen — a serious candidate last year when the choice went to Mr. Claes after Mr. Woerner died of Cancer.

Former Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers.

who failed to win the post of European Commission president last year, was also mentioned in newspaper articles, as was outgoing Portuguese Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva.

Earlier this year, when the scandal spotlight first turned on Mr. Claes, then British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd and Defence Minister Malcolm Rifkind were in the frame, as was German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe — although all disclaimed any ambition to head NATO

If parliament follows the commission's recommendation and Mr. Claes decides he must step down in order to concentrate on fighting the allegations, NATO for-First names into the ring eign ministers could well take the opportunity of their meeting at the United Nations next weekend to

> make their choice. Such a decision would have poignant memories for Mr. Claes. He himself was picked by NATO foreign ministers on the fringes of a U.N. meeting on Sept. 29,

#### Hunger rises in U.S., Africa, report says that was disbanded this

Africa and the United States are the two parts of the world where hunger is increasing at a time when the U.S. Congress is slashing funds to help the poor in both, an anti-hunger organisation said Friday.

David Beckmann, president of the Bread for the World Institute, warned that the situation clearly could lead to turmoil.

"If you look at Chinese wisdom literature, if you look at the Bible, it is really clear that if you are rough on poor people, if you don't respond to vulnerable people, then in the long term that leads to violence and instability," he said. Mr. Beckmann spoke at a

news conference where the institute, largely supported by Christian charities, presented its sixth annual report, the 117-page Hunger 1996 — Countries In Crisis. U.S. Rep. Tony P. Hall, a leading advocate of foreign aid, said members of the House of Representatives and the Senate will meet

next week to reconcile differences over bills on foreign aid this year. The House approved \$12 billion and the Senate \$12.3 billion, compared with last year's spending total of \$13.6 billion.

Mr. Hall chaired the House Select Committee on Hunger, abolished during the last Congress, and of an informal "hunger caucus"

year. He now heads an informal hunger task force of Democratic members. Mr. Beckmann said

Congress "is slashing aid not only to the Rwandas and Liberias and the countries that are not yet in crisis" but also in the United States. "The budget resolution

calls for \$300 billion in cuts to programmes that help poor people, children and the elderly and the disabled" Americans, he said.

Don Reeves, an economic analyst at Bread for the World, said the gap is growing between rich and poor within the United States and between Africa and more prosperous parts of the pages of statistics on hunger and deprivation around the world.

Figures from Africa are incomplete, but they show 12 per cent of children under the age of five in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, are "suffering from underweight (severe) 1980-1993." in Malawi, 57 per cent of the under-fives were reported as stunted.

In the United States, where figures are more current, tables report 301 out of 1,000 children under 12 are "hungry or at risk" this year, up from 268 out of 1,000 in 1991.

# New rift opens in Mexican ruling party

MEXICO CITY (AFP) -A new rift opened in Mexico's ruling party Friday with the announcement by Manuel Camacho Solis, a political star who gained fame as a peacemaker in rebel-torn Chiapas, that he was quitting to join the opposition.

Once considered a prime contender for the Mexican presidency, Mr. Camacho said he was leaving the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) because "there is no will to change or reform the PRI."

He said he and his friends would "pursue the struggle outside the party to push for reforms."

"We are not in a hurry, we have time and we will form a coalition with other oppo-

sition forces to build a space for demoncracy in the country," he said. Mr. Camacho also said he

would turn over a "confidential" document on the 1994 assassination of PRI presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio to Attorney General Antonio Lozano

He declined to comment on its content, but it is bound to raise new questions about the assassination, which rocked the Mexican political system. Despite arrests in the case, lingering suspicions persist about a conspiracy.

Mr. Camacho's break was the most serious to strike the ruling party since Cuauhtemoc Cardenas and Porfirio Munoz Ledo split

to form the left of center Party of the Democratic Revolution. Mr. Camacho, 49, is a

leading figure in the PRI, having served as mayor of Mexico City and foreign minister before being tapped by then President Carlos Salinas to negotiate a ceasefire in a 1993 insurrection in the southern state of Chiapas.

He did not conceal his disappointment that Mr. Salinas did not choose him as his successor.

When Mr. Colosio was assassinated four months before the 1994 elections. Mr. Camacho had eclipsed him in popularity and fame as the peacemaker of Chiapas.

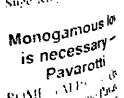
At Mr. Colosio's funeral at

the PRI headquarters, Mr. Camacho was booed and jeered by party militants who never forgave him for not getting squarely behind Mr. Colosio's campaign for the sake of party unity.

The Colosio assassination has poisoned the political climate in Mexico, raising suspicions of plots and conspiracies within the highest reaches of a party that has enjoyed 66 years of uninterrupted rule.

In recent weeks, there have been growing calls for an investigation of Mr. Salinas and his chief of staff, Jose Cordoba Montoya, both of whom are living overseas.

Mr. Camacho's break with the ruling party follows a power struggle with the PRI conservatives.



## **Jordan Times**

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#### Algeria: Stating the obvious

FRENCH PRESIDENT Jacques Chirac stated the obvious when he disclosed last week what he would tell Algerian President Liamine Zeroual when they meet in New York in a few weeks on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations: There is but one solution to the Algerian crisis and it lies squarely in democracy. But this French perspective is significant when viewed against the backdrop of repeated claims by Algeria's Armed Islamic Group (GIA) that Paris is siding with the military hardliners in Algeria. The GIA claims could explain, in part at least, the wave of bomb attacks in France by Algerian fundamentalists.

More than 30,000 people reportedly have been killed in Algeria since the military intervened in 1992 to terminate the general elections that the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win. The interruption of the democratic process in that country brought about the internal bloody conflict that accounts for the heavy toll on people's lives and properties. Journalists were particularly targeted by the two sides in an effort to silence dissent and the dissemination of news and information. Other professionals were also on the hit list of one group or another especially women human rights advocates who spoke out openly for equal treatment for the two sexes.

Mr. Chirac's panacea to the Algerian situation is actually the solution to all conflicts and disputes whether domestic or external. The developing countries in particular have coined for themselves all sorts of formulae to govern themselves that were democratic only in name. That is why there were all kinds and brands of "democracy" that emerged in the wake of the end of the colonial era which was geared to serve The self-interests of the new rulers and regimes. In the process foreign imperialists were effectively replaced by national colonialists.

Algeria is faced with a major dilemma: To put all its trust and faith in the democratic process, come what may, or try to manipulate or doctor the democratisation process in order to "save" the country from what the military term as the "tyranny of the majority." On balance, we still believe that if a choice has to be made between one course or the other it must be made in favour of democracy as long as there are built-in measures to guarantee its continuity in the future. As international human rights tribunals now agree, selfdetermination is a continuing process and does not end with independence. The crux of the challenge to Algerians of all persuasions, then, is to give the right of self-determination a perpetual lease on life. If this much can be guaranteed, then no one can be entitled to put faith in undemocratic means as a way to attain

#### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A columnist in Al Ra'i Saturday raised the question of the futility of the Arab League which, he said, had displayed total failure in all its actions and was bent on destroying, as opposed to enhancing, the charter on which it was founded. Having permitted the United States to lead a world coalition against Iraq in 1991, the Arab League also gave the green light to France and allowed it to handle the disturbances in the Comoros Islands with a free rein, said Tareq Masarweh. Noting that Iraq and the Comoros Islands are both members of the Arab League, the writer said the League had given its consent to foreign powers to interfere in Arab affairs instead of enforcing the pan-Arab defence pact which calls for Arab countries to settle issues within the Arab World. The writer wondered what position the Arab League would adopt in the event Egypt and Sudan went to war, or how it would act vis a vis the expulsion of Palestinians from Libya, the eviction of Palestinians from Kuwait and their loss of property and the continued starvation of Iraqis, or with regard to border disputes between Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States. He also questioned why Jordan should continue to contribute to the Arab League while its employees do nothing and its actions continue to defeat the purpose of its existence.

Reflecting on Iraq and its future status in the Middle East, Taher Al Adwan, writing in Al Dustour, said that the United States was making it impossible for Baghda. to see an end to the sanctions until its leaders succumbed to pressure and accepted Washington's terms. The writer said that following the destruction of Iraqi military power and national economy, the country was subjected to a campaign of inspections and pressures. The latest pressure, said the writer, aimed at forcing Baghdad to make peace with Israel and so obtain a good conduct certificate enabling the Iraqis to open its markets to US goods and allowing Washington to assume control over the country's oil wealth, said the writer. Once this happens, he said, the U.S. will force Iraq to yield to International Monetary Fund instructions, to set up a democracy designed by Washington that serves the American purpose and finally to remain deprived of modern technology. In addition, he said, the Iraqis will be formed to cooperate with other regimes in the region to figi: hat the U.S. considers a danger to Islam and to give up its Arab national policies and totally submit to

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahd Al Fanek

# **MENA summit:** A chance for Jordan

THE MIDDLE East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference scheduled to convene in Amman in two weeks time is in every respect an international conference. It is not a Jordanian conference in the same way the Casablanca economic summit last year was, by no means,

a Moroccan conference. Whether the coming economic conference will be a success or a failure depends on how one looks at it. The Casablanca conference, for instance, was successful from an American point of view. It was extremely successful from an Israeli point of view, as well. But it was not so successful from a Jordanian or Palestinian point of view

because neither got any tangible benefit from their participation, as they were overwhelmed by other players who

were more ready and better equipped. Likewise, the Amman summit will be successful to certain participating states and corporations but probably a complete failure for others. The conference as a whole could not be described as successful or not successful except from the management and organisational points of view. Even if complete failure were the outcome, it would be considered a success for those who have been working overtime to sabotage it.

What we are interested in is whether or not the conference will be successful as far as Jordan is concerned. In this respect we have first to determine the criteria by which success should be measured. We divide these criteria into image promotion and economic results.

The conference will be a success from a Jordanian perspective if it results in creating a positive image for the

people, the government and the regime of Jordan. Although a Swiss institution, the World Economic Forum, is responsible for the organisation of the conference, the major responsibility of running and directing it falls on the shoulders of the host country. We know that the preparations for media coverage, security, and administration took months, and will be put to the test during the threeday conference. The indicator, in this respect, is what the international media will say.

On the other hand, the conference will be successful economically if some participants are convinced that Jordan is a good place for investment, and if government and the business leaders are able to convincingly present Jordanian projects and make effective contacts with their counterparts to attract them into cooperation in the implementation of Jordanian projects and in investing in the future of the country.

It is, of course, very important to follow up the contacts after the conference. Only official decisions and political declarations will be made during the conference. All economic and investment decisions will take place at a later

The success of the MENA economic conference is a success for Jordan. If others make achievements and we fail, then we should not blame but ourselves. Unfortunately, there are among us many defeatists who misunderstand the very concept of "normalisation" and call for our withdrawal, leaving the void to be filled by

## Latin America asks, is drug war worth it?

By Jorge G. Castaneda

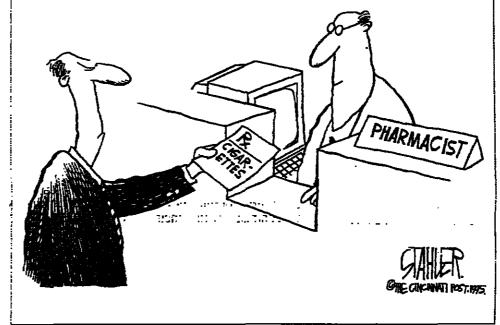
LOS ANGELES - For a while now, the Latin American drug scene has been undergoing a transformation: Traffickers have become businessmen: govhave seduced or tempted by the charms of accommodation; countries have been pressured by Washington into a war they cannot win and do not want to fight.

The travails of President Samper Colombia reflect this deteri-. oration, though they must be viewed as symptoms of a hemispheric problem, not just as a Colombian anecdote or even as another marvellously told tale like Gabriel García Márquez's drug-linked adventures.

The story is simple. Mr. Samper was elected in 1994; his campaign finance director, Santiago Medina. subsequently confessed to the independent federal attorney general that he received campaign donations from the Cali cartel. His former campaign manager, Defence Minister Fernando Botero, has resigned and been thrown into jail.

Mr. Samper survives under a cloud of suspicion that he knew of and approved the contributions from the cartel. Mr. Medina is widely accused of either lying, settling personal accounts or even of having been commissioned by the cartel to join the Samper campaign, ingratiate himself with the candidate and later frame him if he misbehaved.

There are two ways to loc1 at the president's role: Either Mr. Samper was aware of everything and knew exactly what he was doing, cutting a deal with countrty's leading exporters so he could win a tight election and govern peacefully afterward. Or Mr Samper was ignorant of misdeeds that others performed on his behalf and was set up by his aides. But even if the latter was possi-



he is still to blame for running such a loose ship that this sort of mischief was not only feasible, but likely.

The conclusion to be drawn in either case is the same. Presidential politics in Colombia is now permeated, through and through, by the cartels, be they the formerly all-powerful but now presumed extinct Cali and Medellin organisations or by rapidly emerging sub-

As the Samper govern-ment becomes mired down in the financing affair, Latin Americans are asking if the war on drugs is doing the region more harm than good.

Gustavo de Greif, the

Colombian ambassador to Mexico and former attorney general, whose commitment to combating the drug trade in Colombia is corroborated by his success in dismantling the Medellin cartel and tracking down its leader, Pablo Escobar, has his doubts about the wisdom of continuing the battle. He has called for the legalisation of drugs in Latin America, arguing that the cost of combating them is far greater for Latin American nations than the benefit of their eradication,

While Mr. de Greif has accused of ancient ties with corporations known to be owned by the Cali chieftains, his voice is respected in the hemisphere.

Mexican industrial magnates, rarely suspected of espousing particularly liberal views on social matters, are also remoured to be lobbying for studies that would support the case for the legalisation of drugs.

But what about the United States? Increasingly, Washington is saying that if Latin American govern-ments are not willing or able to wage the war on drugs according to U.S. standards, then the United States should be allowed to do it for them.

President Gonzalo Sánche de Losada of Bolivia is said to have told his fellow Latin American presidents recently that he sarcastically asked an American envoy to whom he should hand over power, since U.S. demands for more action were increasingly becoming unacceptable. This is also clearly emergings as a problem in Mexico, where the silent pressures from Washington are weakening an already precarious gov-

For Latin American governments, the choice seems to be between continued confrontation with traffickers, on the one hand, and negotiations and legalisation on the other. The United States has choked off the third strategy, the Latin version of "don't ask, don't tell" - whereby modest efforts at drug enforcement, as in Colombia during the 1980s and early 90s, coexisted with accommodation.

Negotiating with the drug lords while simultaneously maintaining the facade of confrontation is proving too costly and embarrassing for Latin American governments. The options are narrowing: Either persuade Latin Amerian societies that the war on drugs can be won - or go home. This drastic choice may not have to be faced tomorrow, but it is closer than ever before.

The writer is a visiting professor at Princeton University and the author of a forthcoming book, "The Mexican Shock." He contributed this comment to the Los Angeles Times. The above article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

# Arab culture or simple economics?

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

IN AN article that was published in the Jordan Times on Sept. 26. Mr.Rami Khouri addressed certain social phenomenon in a highly enlightening article. In the article, the following questions were addressed: "Why do Arabs often throw rubbish out of their car windows? Why is it so hard for Arab culture to provide clean bathrooms in public places? Why do we find it so difficult to adopt 'democratic' systems and 'civil society' structures similar to those in the Western industrialised democracies?" These questions were answered by relating them to the demise of Arabian public space at the hands of the state and tribal institutions: "The public space that does exist has been almost totally appropriated by two central actors in modern Arab culture - the state and the tribe ... there is almost no space for anything substantive in our modern Arab cultures." Thus, "thus small zones that fall in neither the territory of the state nor of the tribe ... are perceived as zones

of no responsibility." While I note that Mr. Khouri's points are well taken from the view of a social observer, I would like to address the problem(s) from a different perspective, that of an economist, I present here, via simpler reasoning than Mr. Khouri's conclu-

Why do Arabs often throw rubbish out of their car windows?" The reason may be because of one or all of the fol-

1. They could not find trash containers close-at hand which would have made it effortless for them to chuck their trash appropriately. Why doesn't the government provide them with trash bins on the roads and highways similar to the ones provided in the U.S. and the West? Because we do not have the resources to do so.

2. They were not afraid of being seen by the police who usually turn a blind eye to the garbage-chuckers. Since the likelihood of being caught and punished is low, one's expected private cost becomes less than his private displeasure of putting up with his own trash for a longer period. Therefore, he proceeds to trash the public highway because he is a very clean person. The reverse is true in the West where one's prospect of being caught is extremely high. Thus the added private benefit from not putting up with one's own trash becomes less than the cost of getting rid of it illegally.

3. Environmental awareness among Arab nations is almost non existent because we are, after all, poor developing nations. Our governments face financial hardships, in many of our regions people suffer from mainutrition, our incomes are low in comparison to the West, our unemployment figures are high and our conception of waste and pollution is still new. On the other hand. Western governments have spent billions of dollars in the last few years to make their citizens and industries more aware of the ecosystem and environmental safety. Again, lack of awareness of the social damage to the environment makes trashing the highway not so costly in the mind's eye of the good citizen. In other words, the magnitude of the social cost of trashing is not known to the average person and therefore it tends to be minimised.

4. Not having the resources to buy trash bags or garbage bins that would not look offensive in one's car. In spite of the fact that trash bags are cheap in absolute terms, relative to income they are higher in the Arab World than in the West.

5. Lack of awareness on the part of the police, to whom all the above applies. I know that there is a law against trashing, however. I have seen police officers trash highways and dump cigarette butts or empty their ashtrays on the highway. I know that this is not true of all policemen, but it happens.

Why is it so hard for Arab culture to provide clean bathms in public places? One or more of the following explanations may apply:

1. One's attitude toward public bathrooms is more or less the same regardless of one's country. What is different is the amount of money you are willing to spend on cleaning them. Again, the West must win this one because it has more money. No one has an incentive to keep a public bathroom clean. regardless of nationality. The idea is as follows: One person uses it, another cleans it. Nobody holds a monopoly on good attitudes. After all, removing graffiti and keeping the floors clean in public bathrooms is a big expenditure item to most city governments in the West. Why do fine restaurants in the West and possibly everywhere hire an attendant who stays in the restroom at all times? His/her job is to make sure that the bathroom stays clean by cleaning it after those sophisticates have left. In addition, one must realise that the amount of money spent on providing a clean bathroom must be consistent with the income levels of the users. In other words, the public bathroom cannot offer better indemnities than those found in the majority of private bathrooms of the users, otherwise, people will tend to take from the public bathrooms and/or deface them to bring them to par to their own comfort zones. For example, I recall going into one of these places that was set up close of a rest house by some municipality on the way to Petra. There was no toilet paper anywhere. Why? The people who live near the rest house take the paper and use it at home in place of napkins.

Officials finally decided it was not worth restocking these bathrooms. The people were never caught for steeling public property and no one complained about the officials not stock ing the bathrooms. Both behaviours were rational in terms of the circumstances. In economic term the situation can be described as a game in which the optimal long-run solution of the natives would be to take smaller amounts without letting the officers of the municipality notice their theft. Thus, the official continue to stock the bathrooms and the locals continue to abscond with free toilet paper. However, if there is no monitoring of the officials, they can always claim that the natives are steeling the supplies and sell the supplies elsewhere. A sticky problem maybe? Yes. Many schools in New York complain about the school janitors selling the school supplies on the black market. Homeless people raid public bathrooms for supplies. The subject matter is economics, not

2. Additionally, what has contributed significantly in the past to the filth of public bathrooms in Amman is that they were cleaned by public sector employees. Nowadays, the bathrooms have improved markedly thanks to some private sector company that charges the user a small fee and maintains the cleanliness of these bathrooms. A caveat is in order here, this private firm should not become a monopolist with governmental blessings, it should be monitored and allowed to compete for its business with others.

Why do we find it so difficult to adopt 'democratic' systems and 'civil society' structures similar to those in the Western industrialised democracies?

Because we are not as industrialised as the West. Industrial institutions dissolve tribes and extended families. The machine does not care for your tribe and ancestry, all it cares about is whether you produce or not. Nomadic and agrarian societies, to which most Arabs still belong, depend on the tribes for protection, wealth, and income. As we move forward, we too will set up industrial style democracies.

The answers to all the questions have a common thread: We are not yet an industrial society. When we do get there, maybe then, other conclusions can be derived. Factors such as income, wealth, and education, especially when lacking, affect behaviour.

### **LETTERS** Elitism is the word

To the editor:

WITH ALL due respect to the views expressed by the Right Honourable Senator Ma'an Abu Nowar (Letter to the Editor, the Jordan Times, Oct. 14, 1995), I would like

to point out the following: First: I was one of the panellists who were selected by the organisers of the conference to discuss parliamentary life in Jordan, and my intervention was not, therefore, out

Second: There is nothing in the laws or bylaws governing the work of parliament that prevent members of its staff from addressing issues related to the performance of the House and the House's secretariat.

Third: I am convinced that it is my right to debate "politics of the nature discussed in the seminar." Dr. Abu Nowar, made many attempts to deny me the right to speak

out, contravening in the process my basic right to free speech regardless or despite of how "extremely sensitive politically, legally and morally" the issue at hand was.

Fourth: One would have expected from the right hon-

ourable gentleman to show tolerance and understanding to the concerns and worries of a young compatriot. Instead, and on top of his many attempts to muzzle me at the seminar, he carried this to the newspapers describing me as a "junior clerk" and my interventions as a "dabbling in. .. " two descriptions that, wreak of elitism, to say

> Hassan Abdullah, Parliament House. Amman

# **Features**

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of the upcoming Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit. He expressed hope that the summit in the forday lune, in the would be "a new starting er and point at the economic level to the other, the following enable the Jordanian people s she Arabs often throw as to lead an honourable, peaceful life." the rest see hard for Archen is best-fit blacks White for

The King described the Kingdom's preparations to host the summit as comprehensive, and said the summit will constitute a turning point and a new start for Jordan.

He said many projects will be presented to the summit and that there will be continuous contacts among the parties involved in the summit, both at the domestic and international levels.

(Continued from page 1) that were taken by the government to ensure the success international community realises the importance of this stage in the history of the Middle East and it would act as a partner and main-party in

the summit.

King: Camp residents need not worry

"Regarding our brethern in the Arab World, naturally we welcome them all and hope that they will have a major role in what will be achieved to serve the in-terests of the Arab people at the present and in the fu-ture," the King added.

are," the King added.
At the cabinet session, which was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary, and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al

Qasem, Industry and Trade
The King added that the Minister Ali Abul Ragheb outlined preparations for the MENA summit and its agen-

> The minister said international interest to take part in the summit was growing, noting that the number of foreign businessmen and private sector representatives who would take part had reached 900. He added that delegations from 52 countries had also confirmed their participation in the summit.

> He said the Ministry of Planning has completed preparations to present 27 projects worth \$3.5 billion at the summit. He said private sector committees have also finalised their proposals on presenting 136 projects worth

#### Thousands rally in Gaza and W. Bank

(Continued from page 1)

outside Mr. Arafat's seaside headquarters also carried placards that read, "We demand that Israel implements what it committed itself to in the agreement" and "yes to the unconditional release of all our male and female prison-

ten that peace is always made between enemies and they have forgotten that peace is a new page that wipes out what precedes it," the self-rule government's secretarygeneral, Mr. Tayyeb Abdul Rahim, told the assembled

"The Israelis have forgotten that hands of their officers drip with blood and that their soldiers have killed in-

nocent people," he added. Mr. Arafat and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres are scheduled to meet on Sunday to try to resolve their differences and work out a final timetable for an Israeli troop withdrawal from Palestinian towns and villages in the West Bank.

The Palestinians say Israel had promised to begin its pullout 10 days after the agreement was signed. They have dismissed a withdrawal from four villages this week.

unity of Iraq and build their

fast people will be unanimous

and up to the challenge of

this decisive stage in our

struggle of destiny with the

said Saad Qassem Hamoudi,

a senior official of the ruling

The opinion poll, pub-

lished in the newspaper Al

Jumhouriya, asked Iraqis:

"Why will you vote 'yes' for

It said 33 per cent of peo-

ple said they would vote for

him because he was the sym-

bol of Iraq, 36 per cent be-cause they loved him and 31

per cent because they were

convinced of the president's

A second school of thought

says President Saddam will

win because people have no

confidence that the ballot will

Baath Party.

Saddam Hussein?"

leadership qualities.

forces of evil and tyranny,

"The answer of our stead-

ine ag

Media predict 100% Saddam vote

(Continued from page 1) , be secret.

But Israel said it could not move faster because the accord first had to be ratified by Israel's parliament on Oct. Israel has said it would begin pulling out of the first West Bank city, Jenin, only

in mid-November. An Israeli newspaper said Friday Mr. Rabin has asked a parliamentary committee to

Mr. Rabin's spokeswoman and the housing ministry

Palestinians, in peace mand Arab East Jerusalem as capital of a future state, all of the West Bank, and the dismantling of Jewish settle-

since 1967 as a threat to the peace process.

Kol Ha-Ir said Mr. Rabin told the ministerial committee three weeks ago he wanted it to work on a plan to build hotels and 1,500 housing units that would make the West Bank settlement of Maale Adumim contiguous

Israel and the PLO have Jerusalem and Jewish settle-

The registration process

ensures the authorities can at

least find out who has voted.

The bailot papers appear to

be unmarked but years of

snooping by security agencies

have made many Iraqis wary

of dissenting.
The third school says de-

sperate people, resigned to the reality that President Sad-

dam is no match for his oppo-

nents in the U.N. Security

Council, may vote "no" re-

"Some people have no-

thing more to lose. They're at

their wit's end and will grasp

at any straw," said one Iraqi,

who is himself weighing his

options when he casts his

Others keep their heads

down, refusing to say who is

to blame for the sorry state of

their country after five years

of restrictions on selling oil

vote on Sunday.

gardless of consequences.

ments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for permanent status peace talks which are to begin in mid-1996.

But Mr. Rabin, presenting for parliamentary approval last week the Sept. 28 accord between Israel and the PLO. vowed no part of Jerusalem would be ceded and that West Bank settlements near

ernment would seek, in the permanent settlement, "a united Jerusalem - to include also Maale Adumim and Givat Zeev (settlements) as the capital of Israel under Israeli sovereignty.'

On Thursday, an Israeli peace group said Mr. Rabin's government was pursuing a settlement drive in the West Bank despite the accord with the PLO on army redeployment in the area.

Peace Now said the government was building a total of 6,000 housing units, mostly in settlements around Arab East Jerusalem, including 1,400 housing starts this year.
Housing Minister Benyamin Ben-Eliezer denied

that report. Over 140,000 settlers live in the West Bank among more than one million Palestinians. Some 150,000 Israelis have settled in Arab East Jerusalem.

knows best)," said a Baghdad

driver. "All we care about is

where our next meal comes

in Baghdad but the United

Nations says 22 to 30 per cent

of children are severely mal-

nourished. Iraqis who fall

sick are the unluckiest of all

medical services are in grave

Diplomats say the referen-

dum aims to show the world a

new triumphant Saddam and

that he will have to follow up

with other gestures towards

more representative govern-

Previous promises of more

press freedom and political

pluralism, in 1988 and 1991

for example, have been still-

vited foreign observers to

monitor the referendum but

many came from pro-Saddam

organisations and seemed to

The government has in-

dectine.

medicines are dear and

# Iraqis wade into Tigris to pan for lost gold

Hard hit by U.N. sanctions, Iraqis prospect for gold to make ends meet. Reuter's Jack Redden reports from Baghdad

As a searing midday sun beats down, young Iraqi men stand in Baghdad's murky Tigris River swirling pans of water and dirt in a search for fragments of long-lost

gold.
"I was a goldsmith. It was my profession since childhood," said Farhan Shwih Kadhim, supervising a group of workers al-Shuhadaa bridge. "I can hardly make ends meet."

The workers walk past reeking garbage piled by the end of the bridge and clamber down to the river bank through dirt and rubble. Neighbourhood drains spurt foul liquid from the brick flood wall of the Tigris on either side of the workers' small riverside site.

This is not the klondike, with treasure seekers by the muddy river from

hills in northern Iraq and Turkey. The mother lode is nearby and has a

"We buy the dirt from goldsmiths," said Kadhim, who is in partnership with a friend. Now we are digging places where the Jews used to work 60 years

human origin.

worked, tiny fragments of gold inevitably were lost on the floor, trampled into dirt, swept out the door, carried off on clothes. We dig down two to three metres, pay for the dirt and bring it to the river bank to clean it and look for gold," said the 28year-old man. "We collect the gold, purify it in factories and then sell it."

Jews were Baghdad's jewellers until the establishment of finding gold dust carried, Israel in 1948. Even today the shelves of

antique shops are wellstocked with the finely crafted work of a people who had been in the land of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers for at least 2,500 years.

Israel says they were driven out, Iraq says they were drawn to the Jewish state by propaganda. Now there are only a few aged Jews left in Baghdad, the last generation of a once important community.

Those now seeking their lost gold carry dirt and rubble in sacks down the steep river bank and pour small quantities into

The workers, mostly youths, stand up to their waists in the water sweeping past the piers of the bridge that links their east side of Baghdad centre of the old city — to the west bank that now hosts the more fashionable areas. Large amounts of dirt

and labour go into the process. But it works. The labourers proudly pointed at two tiny gold curls glistening on the bottom of a

Kadhim said his crew could find up to 50,000

Is this earth or Bill Gates' global apple?

Iraqi dinars worth of gold in three days of work. After giving a share to the 11 workers, he and his partner are left with about

12,000 dinars each. That seems a feeble return when translated into dollars: 12,000 dinars would be worth about \$5. But in a country where the official monthly salary for the directorgeneral of a government department does not reach 20,000 dinars, Kadhim and his friends

are doing well. Iraqis say panning for lost gold began by the riverside in the 1980s but became common only after the country had to cope with severe economic sanctions imposed because of Iraqi president Saddam Hussein's 1990

invasion of Kuwait. "In the past things were okay, now life is more difficult," said Kadhim, who hopes one day to have a small goldsmith's shop of his own. Other teams worked

nearby. They said thousands of Iraqis were engaged in the same work throughout the country, digging and washing any buying gold.

earth on which a gold-

smith once worked. Such initiative is one reason Iraq has not collapsed, despite sweeping U.N. trade restrictions that will continue until Saddam honours ceasefire terms set after the 1991 war that drove him from Kuwait.

"It will continue on the verge of collapse it will never collapse," said a diplomat. "It will always be on the edge of the precipice, nearly at the subsistence level." That same adjustment

to a new economic reality has ensured that Kadhim and others searching for gold, will continue to have a market.

The Iraqi dinar has collapsed, valued at \$3 in 1990, it now takes nearly 2,500 to buy one dollar. It has fallen in value by 50 percent just since June.

Any Iraqi acquiring large quantities of dinars, such as farmers or merchants who can raise their prices with inflation, does not want to hold them for long. There is no better hedge than immediately

#### "The Israelis have forgotapprove a building project the city would be retained by that would join a large Jewish settlement to the city of Jeru-He told parliament his gov-

spokeswoman refused to comment on the report. negotiations with Israel, de-

They see Israeli building for Jews in lands occupied

to Jerusalem.

left the sensitive issue of

REDMOND, Wash. -- On the front page of the Financial Times the other

By Thomas Friedman

day was a picture that caught my eye. It showed Bill Gates, the chairman of Microsoft, holding talks with Jiang Zemin, the President of China. The caption made it sound like any meeting of world leaders. It said the two men held "very cordial" talks, in contrast with their "frosty" summit of 18

Bill Gates has met Jiang Zemin twice in 18 months.

Microsoft operating systems run 85 per cent of the world's personal computers. Microsoft doesn't need Washington to open doors for it because foreign governments are begging Microsoft to come in and translate Windows 95 into their languages, so they can get on the infor-Describing his contacts with foreign leaders. Mr. Ballmer put it this way: People supple You have this technology We hear

it's changing the world. Tell us how it can help us.

## 'We are Microsoft. Not American. Microsoft. Microsoft Japan. Microsoft Italy . . . '

Hmmmmmm, that's once more than Bill Clinton. That's no accident. The Chinese believe they need Bill G. more than they need Bill C., which raises an interesting question: Does Microsoft have a foreign policy?

I asked Steve Ballmer, the No. 2 man at Microsoft, who oversees the software giant's worldwide operations from its headquarters in Redmond, Washington. Mr. Ballmer says Microsoft doesn't have a foreign policy per se. But it does have a glob-al business agenda. Since Microsoft today has twice the market value of General Motors, it's worth

looking at that agenda, because it is bound to influence U.S. foreign pol-When I asked Mr. Ballmer what policies his company's Washington office was pushing these

days, he gave me a quizzi-cal look and said, "WE just put our first person there." I had to laugh. Can you imagine bow many people the Big Three auto makers have in Washington, Microsoft, a \$50 billion company, just opened a Washington office. Mind

you, Microsoft has an army of p.r. firms, and lawyers aplenty to defend it against antitrust suits, but except for help with copyright violations. Microsoft doesn't much look to Washington. . In part this is because it

has a virtual worldwide monopoly. Like one of the great sea powers of old, Microsoft today controls access to the modern lanes communication. edge U.S. technology mar-

It's intriguing to talk to Mr. Ballmer about where Microsoft sales are booming, as an indicator of which countries are hot and which are not China has the greatest potential. not just because it has 1.2 billion people but because its birth control policies restricting every family to one child mean there are often two sets of grandparents and two parents that is six adults — saving to buy a computer and

software for each kid. Mr. Ballmer says Japan is just now taking off for Microsoft products, while Israel is so far advanced it has one of the few Microsoft development centres outside Redmond. But Microsoft's hottestmarket in the Middle East is Saudi Arabia. Iran and Egypt are nil, but India and Brazil are booming. The one European democracy that is slipping is France. Says Mr. Ballmer: "I don't want to say (France) has fallen behind," but "the penetra-tion of PC's relative to population was quite high in France. That's not true anymore.' Is what's good for

Microsoft good for America? When I asked Mr. Ballmer whether Microsoft was even an American company, he said: "We like to think we are a company based in America that is a global company. In every country we are Microsoft. Not American. Microsoft Microsoft Japan. Microsoft Italy...." That does not mean it is indifferent to America. Microsoft needs a cutting-



ket to design, test and perfect its products for global sales. Also, since America is the leader in information technology, laws and standards set here are copied abroad

While Microsoft is a coldblooded economic giant, its technology, along with that of its competitors, can foster democracy in ways G.M. never could. Says Mr. Ballmer: "Once Its software is making it you let people on the

possible for individuals to communicate horizontally, through the Internet. across international boundaries, and to create groups and information pools that are outside all government authority. To take full advantage of that software, societies have to

become more open, dereg-

ulated and interactive.

Internet. the control aspects are reasonably out the window." It's too early to predict

what all this will mean for U.S. foreign policy, but I do predict this: It will be shaped to a significant degree by decisions taken in Washington. Redmond, Washington.

New York Times

#### **Fighting** rages in Bosnia

(Continued from page 1) Bosnia, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Hulbrooke, telephoned leaders in Zag-reb, Sarajevo, and Belgrade to call for a halt to the fight-

Rebel Serb leaders threatened to pull out of peace talks and demanded NATO airstrikes against their Muslim and Croat foes to halt what they said was an offensive violating the truce that mostly silenced guns elsewhere in Bosnia.

At least two settlements about 20 kilometres south of Banja Luka were evacuated, and one was on fire, said Banja Luka's mayor, Predrag Radic. Reporters were not allowed to travel to the area. The sound of distant artillery fire from the west rumbled through city streets all after-

small seed as the West Blober and extended tantiles or table and ancests all the ar title and meest and performed through the streets, bringing wounded from the front small below, depending with the streets. come As we move found? democracies minima hiera filled the corridors. All seven be derived Lactors lactors on concentrations operating rooms were in constant use. Suzana Vrhovec said 50-60 wounded were treated there daily over the past

## Iran officials deny charges

"Allahu aalam (God have made up their minds.

(Continued from page 12)

policies in the region were not aimed at serving Arab interests. The U.S. "is using vio-

lence" by reinforcing their troops in the Gulf, he said. "They are trying to show that Iran is aggressive, opposes peace and buys nuclear plants. Mr. Imami said that Iran

was interested in a regional security system with the Arab countries on condition that Iran plays a role in the re-"We are Muslims and we

would like to have good relations with Arab and Muslim countries," he said. "The U.S. is not ready to defend any country.' Mr. Husseini said there

were no major developments in Iranian-Iraqi relations. The two countries are only exchanging delegations "to solve the existing problems between them."

He cited issues like prisoners of war and losses incurred during the Iran-Iraq war as the main concerns of Iran. "Iraq is obliged to pay." compensation, he said. There is no improvement in

relations (between the two

countries). What Iran could

do to Iraq is very limited."
He said that the Baghdad

regime had weakened Iraq while Iran was interested in "a reliable" and trustworthy

"We don't want Iraq to be partitioned. We want one

Iraq," he added.
"Iran cannot violate U.N.
resolutions," Mr. Imami said in an answer to a question on Iran's role in improving relations with Iraq.
"Iran called for a security

system in the region as far back as the 1970s. Unfortunately the Arab countries in the ... Gulf did not agree on the project. Iraq rejected it because of its (then) relationship with the former Soviet Union."

Strongly advocating the establishment of a new security system in the region, Mr. Imami pointed to what he described as the failure of the Gulf Cooperation Council. which excludes Iraq and Iran, to protect Kuwait when it was invaded. "There is a chance for

mending relations between Iran and the neighbouring countries if Islam was taken as the basis," Mr. Husseini said. "This is the beginning. We can line up together under one religion. A new generation has come to power in Iran. It is independent and not under the influence of foreign powers."



# FAO says high cereal prices hit world's hungry

ROME (R) — The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) warned that some of the world's poorest countries faced major problems because of rising international cereal prices.

The Rome-based agency said in its latest Food Outlook that sharp price increases were putting a huge financial burden on those countries, already facing reduced shipments of food aid, that most needed but could least afford imports.

FAO said that with higher prices the cost of cereal imports "will be much greater in 1995/96, having possible serious implications for lowincome food-deficit coun-

tries."
"There is no evidence that the high cereal prices have resulted in reduced cereal imports for food consumption by developing countries." it

reported.
"However, there is growing concern that many of these countries will not be able to finance in 1995/96 the additional cost of cereal imports which FAO estimates at about \$3,000 million, or some 25 per cent more than in 1994/95, for all low-income food-deficit countries in

aggregate," FAO said. Food Outlook said prices remained highly volatile due to a tight supply situation caused by lower production in 1995 and reduced stocks held by the major exporters. It said its latest estimate for 1995 production was 1.891

billion tonnes, 58 million tonnes below last year. Globai cereal stocks were set to fall in crop years ending in 1996 by some 47 million tonnes to 265 million.

The agency said several countries, already suffering from supply difficulties, were causing immediate concern.

"In southern Africa, following drought reduced harvests, an estimated 10 million people are in need of emergency food assistance, the Food Outlook said.

"However deliveries of food aid remain slow and further pledges are needed coupled with measures to expedite their delivery and internal distribution," it added.

FAO forecast cereal production in Somalia would be sharply down in 1995 from the previous year.

It said a series of food supply assessment missions would visit the Horn of Africa to review the outcome of 1995 harvests and estimate the food aid requirements for

"But it is already clear that vulnerable populations throughout the sub-region will continue to require emergency assistance well into 1996," FAO said.

Elsewhere in Africa, the agency said the food situation remained critical for large sections of society in Sierra Leone and Liberia, due to reduced harvests caused by civil war.

FAO said that higher cereal prices were also having an effect in the feeds industry, with some countries using maize instead of low quality wheat in animal food rations.

tain a healthy reserve posi-"Higher prices are expected tion despite escalating deto lead to reduced utilisation fence expenditures.
"You must understand that of grains, in particular for animal feed, and are already this is a war fought with affecting the composition of dollars and not rupees. If not cereal imports in 1995/96 for the remittances from the especially in Asia," the Food housemaids, the economy Outlook said. would have collapsed a long

## Abu Dhabi to spend \$3b on development projects

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Gulf emirate of Abu Dhabi, a major oil producer, is planning to pump nearly \$13 billion into development projects in the next four years, official figures have showed.

Around 42.7 per cent of the investment would be channelled into water and cent into communication, 10 per cent into services and five per cent into housing, said a paper at an investment conference.

"The projects are within comprehensive development plans being carried out by Abu Dhabi government," said the paper, pre-sented by Abdullah Ibn Huwailil, deputy chairman of the Abu Dhabi chamber

of commerce and industry. The paper, citing planning ministry figures, said the investment did not include spending on the oil sector, which is expected to attract huge allocations for plans to expand the production capacity.

## Inflation spreads poverty to 40 million Russians

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia has overshot its inflation targets this year and real incomes have fallen sharply spreading profound poverty among 40 million people. Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said Friday.

In a gloomy assessment of the economy, he said that failure to meet inflation targets had cut real incomes by 12 per cent but he stressed commitment to reform and to curbs on the power of monopolies.

He also said that the government was working on a scheme to break a logjam of internal debt by converting amounts owed into transferable property rights.

Speaking to the lower house, the State Duma, Mr. Chernomyrdin urged parliament to put economic interests before politics and adopt the 1996 draft budget.

The reason for the 12-per cent fall in real incomes was that "we did not reach the forecast level of inflation:" he said, revealing that the incomes of 40 million Russians in January-September 1995 were lower than the

COLOMBO (AFP) - Sri

Lankan housemaids working

abroad are propping up the

island's war-weary economy,

but they may be unable to

sustain the country's costly fight against Tamil rebels,

according to financial

Women employed in the

Gulf and South East Asia

remit about \$1.5 million a

day and help Sri Lanka main-

time ago," one commercial banker said.

The money sent home by

some half a million Sri Lank-

ans working abroad while

helping the balance of pay-

ments is also fuelling infla-

tion, officially estimated at 12

. A budgeted expenditure of

33.9 billion rupees (\$670 mil-

lion) to fight the war against

separatist Tamil Tiger guer-rillas in 1996 will further com-

pound the problems of an

economy already in deep

trouble, analysts say.
"If the government con-

tinues to compete with the

commercial banks for private

funds, then it will put press-

ure on the banks to raise their

deposit rates," a senior man-

ager at the state-run bank of

per cent.

analysts.

minimum subsistence coexistence pact" with paramount.

The 1996 draft budget, submitted to the Duma at the end of August, was based on a monthly inflation rate of 1.2 per cent, Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov said Wednesday.

Parliament has delayed adopting the budget and senior deputies hold that the inflation targets are unrealis-

Inflation, which hit 17.8 per cent in January, was brought down to 4.5 per cent in September as the government pursued tight monetary policies apporved by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said the 1996 draft budget "reflects the continuity of the economic policy aimed at deepening reforms," and urged parliament to adopt it before the

Deputies should not allow pre-election political campaigning to influence important economic decisions, he said, proposing "a nonaggression pact. or peaceful

He said gilt-edge Treasury Bills (T.B.s) yielding 20.3 per

cent interest were already

taking away deposits from

commercial banks offering 15

per cent on one-year fixed

High deposit rates in turn

could fuel steep lending rates and lead to galloping infla-tion, bankers warned. Steady

depreciation of the rupee was

also adding to the problem.

is reflected in the tiny Col-

ombo Stock Exchange, which

has shed nearly 500 points in

the past year with virtually all

blue chip shares trading at

less than the net asset value,

However, despite poor in-

vestor confidence in the mar-

ket, the Bank of Ceylon, the

country's largest commercial

bank, managed to issue a

floating rate note (FRN) and

The gloom in the economy

Ceylon (BOC) said.

deposits.

brokers said.

liament.

"Ther's is little time left before the end of the year and we have much to do." he

Mr. Chernomyrdin said the power of monopolies, especially those in the energy sectors, had to be curbed because they were too influential in determining prices.

He also announced plans to boost the armed forces budget in 1995, increasing house-building for service-men and their families. Funds allocated for recon-

struction work in warravaged Chechenya were set at two trillion roubles (\$444 million) in the 1996 budget, he said In a bid to tackle a deepen-

ing internal debt crisis, the government was drafting a plan to turn overdue debentures into property to be transferred to creditors.

Exceptions would only be made for defence ministry and educational establish-

Overdue credits amounted

Asirwatham said the FRN

arranged was seven times

'This shows that there is

confidence despite this talk of

gloom and doom," Mr. Asirwatham said. The FRN car-

ries an interest rate 1.75 per-

centage points higher than

the benchmark London Inter

Bank Offered Rate

However, all commercial

bankers as well as senior

business leaders here agree

that the economy has slowed

down in the absence of any

market-moving policy by the

year-old government of Pres-

ident Chandrika Kumaratun-

ga.
"There is no doubt a major

slump. The economy is going

through a bad patch. But

settlers are holding no. hop-

ing that prices will improve,

said Stanley Javawardene.

the chairman of a large hotel

oversubscribed.

(LIBOR).

Housemaids keep Sri Lanka's economy afloat

to 173 trillion roubles (\$38.4 billion) and the accumulated debts of enterprises exceeded 130 trillion roubles (\$28.8 billion), he said.

Finance Minister Panskov told the Duma that the 1996 draft budget put forecast budget revenue at 15.8 per cent of GDP from 13.5 per cent in 1995.

Mikhail Zadornov, head of the Duma's budget committee, challenged Mr. Chernomyrdin's figures, saying real incomes had fallen by 18 per cent in 1995.

Mr. Zadornov said the draft budget should not be adopted because it would cut spending on education. culture, law and order and defence.

There was no basis for the draft budget's figure of 12 trillion roubles (\$2.6 billion) in projected revenue from privatisation, because the 1995 target of nine trillion roubles from privatisation had not been met, he said.

The 1996 draft budget puts spending at 414.42 trillion roubles (\$92 billion) and revenue at 332.57 trillion rou-

According to the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), re-

sumption of hostilities claim-

ing more than 2,000 lives in

the past six months will make

it more difficult to woo fore-

ernment cannot look to a

'peace dividend' or to a sport

IPS "State of the Economy

1995" report said, adding

that firm policy signals were

lacking from the new govern-

write-off, at least not yet,"

senior broker Elton Fbert of

Lanka Securities Private Ltd.

said. "The problem is to put

some dynamism and attract

more foreign interest in the

JUMBLE.

"The country is not a

"For the moment, the gov-

investor confidence," the

ign investors.

economy.

# UAE official warns of fresh threats to Gulf oil supplies

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf producers, already suffering the repercussions of two major regional wars and a decline in demand for their crude, could face further threats ahead, an expert

warned Saturday.

Jamal Al Suweidi, director of the state-run Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR), said the Gulf region was still the main oil supplier in the world despite two Gulf wars and a decline in crude prices.

But he warned: "The fu-ture holds many different formidable challenges which could threaten Gulf energy even more."

Mr. Suweidi was addressing a closed-door internatinoal energy conference entitled "Gulf energy and the world: Challenges and threats.

Organisers said 17 energy experts from the Gulf, Japan. Britain and the United States were participating in the twoday meeting, which will focus on mapping out an oil strategy for Arab Gulf states.

Papers to be discussed at the conference in Abu Dhabi would be distributed to the governments in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) before they are published in a book, the organisers said.

"I think we can all agree that the Gulf region continues to play a key role on the world energy scene. But this position is no longer as secure and stable as was the case only two decades ago."
Mr. Suweidi said.

He said this was because of a steady increase in oil production by independent producers at the expense of Gulf countries and other OPEC members, environmental concerns, energy conserva-

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Jumbles: OUTDO EXTOL BUTLER BOTHER

What the trumpet teacher was known as -

by Henri Amold and Mike Argirlor

tion in industrial nations, and progress in the search for alternative energy sources.

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The changes, Mr. Suweidi added, have depressed oil prices and demand for Gulf crude and aggravated the financial woes of GCC states Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Very few oil-exporting countries today enjoy the financial cushion of only a few years ago. These financial constraints and challenges are likely to grow and with a world economy that continues to remain somewhat stagnant, political insta-bility cannot be ruled out,"

"What needs to be remembered, however, is that the challenges faced by Gulf countries today need to be looked upon from their commercila as well as from their political dimension. What is needed is a new strategy that will optimise and must effectively make use of alterna-tives available." Mr. Suweidi pointed out.

GCC states and Iran and Iraq sit on around 660 billion barrels of oil, accounting for more than 60 per cent of the world's total proven crude reserves. They also produce nearly a quarter of the global oil supplies.

The eight states also hold around 45 trillion cubic metres (1,500 trillion cubic feet) of natural gas, nearly one third of the world's.

But all of them have been hurt by low oil prices, which are now nearly half their 1981

#### **HOROSCOPE** FORECAST FOR SUNDAY.

OCTOBER 15, 1995 By Thomas S Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter

Astrological Foundation ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a good day to seek new data for whatever is most important to you at this time

and elevate your conscious-

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) If you contact experts today, you can gain the intormation you have long been searching for. Steer clear of a grouchy person.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Ramble about and see persons hard to reach during busy weekdays and don't get confused with your mate in the evening.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get out early in the morning today and accomplish a good deal, but later tonight avoid a partner who is irate with the way conditions have occurred.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a good morning to plan how to be more successful in personal affairs, and later tonight put your plan to the test.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You understand better now how to handle a worldly affair and can do so quickly. Be careful in driving on the highway.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a fine day to advance mentally, moral ly, monetarily by right thinking and study, but don't get confused over a money mat-

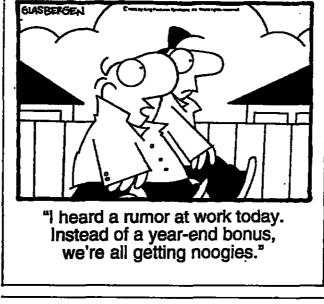
SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your hunches are fine during the daytime today and you should be followed so that you get excellent results later tonight.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Being more direct with partners brings a fine understanding between you and them. You can get much accomplished today with the help of others. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) The day hours today are fine for handling personal matters and seeing friends, you like, but the evening will be best spent at home.

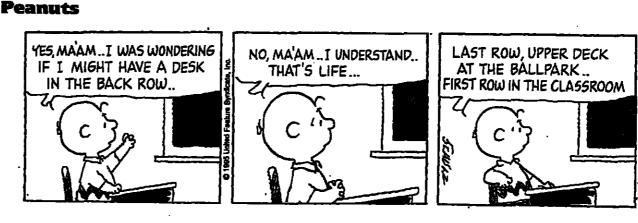
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a good day to show your humanitarian traits and be of real service to others. Do the things which will bring happiness to your mate.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is a good day to clear up misunderstandings at home and establish harmony there. Avoid wandering about town

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline







#### Andy Cap



#### **Mutt'n'Jeff**



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## THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin

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- 14 U.S. author 15 Land measure 16 Hermit 17 Shakespeare
- 18 Unskilled laborer 19 Disguising 21 Utter breathlessly
- 22 Night light 23 Occurrences 25 Hi-fi system 29 Large landmass
- 30 Swiss river 31 Secluded spot 34 Weapon for hurling stones 38 Boat or train
- 40 Glide down the slopes 41 River duck 42 Confused 43 Alight
- 45 Variable star 46 Furthermore 48 Fished with hook and line 50 District of Ireland 10 Indian or Arctic

7 Encore!

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24 Carpenter's item £25 Heroic narrative

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#### **CBJ** to put new JD 1 coin in circulation tomorrow

"What needs to be renge ? **☆☆ A NEW-ONE** dinar coin will be put in circulation on Monday, Oct. 16, 1995 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The plain and heptagonal coin, which is 32mm in diameter, 2.1mm thickness and weighing 12.4gm, is legal tender and will circulate alongside the banknotes and coins issued according to the by-law of Issuance of Jordanian Currency No. 28 year 1992. The obverse of the new coin bears an effigy of His Majesty King Hussein encircled by the phrases "Hussein Ben Talal," "the King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in Arabic. The reverse incorporates the logo of the FAO, the denomination (one dinar) in writing in Arabic and English, the Hejira and Gregorian dates of issue and the phrase "the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in En-

> \*\* ENRON CORPORA-TION, a major U.S. entity specialising in energy, has applied to the government to explore and extract natural gas from 24 wells, found by 237 the Jordanian authorities to be unproductive, in Al Risheh area. Rajab Al Saad. chairman of the National Oil Company, said Enron was confident of very large natural gas deposits based on deep studies of the surveys and the soil in that area. Currently, only six wells produce 30 million cubic feet of natural gas a day covering five per cent of the needs to tions between the National Oil Company and Enron are expected to start in Amman soon in order to arrive at an agreement that will entail investments in millions of dollars. If the U.S. company succeeds in extracting gas from the unproductive wells or from new fields in an area of 7,200 square kilometres, it is hoped that the Kingdom's needs to cover power generation would be met. At present, the volume of natural gas extracted is equivalent to 4,500 barrels of oil per day whereas the amount needed is estimated at between

> > \*\* THE HIGHER steering committee for the Amman economic summit has agreed during a meeting in Washington last week to set up a regional development bank for the Middle East and North Africa and an official nnouncement on this matter will be made during the summit. Government sources said the steering committee succeeded in arriving to an agreement on the bank after a long debate between the participating parties, pro-vided that the structure of the bank be based in Cairo and Amman. Furthermore, it was agreed to hold the summit next year either in Cairo or in Doha (Al Aswaq).

25,000 to 27,000 barrels of oil

per day (Al Dustour).

SAGIFIARII SARABE by two curvest and them be \*\* STATISTICS issued by can bet much decomplete the association of engineers tender with the help of other show that the total number of CAPRICORN: December to Limits on the day her engineers registered at the association has reached forther the true to hilling 34,856 engineers. The number in 1958 was only 37. According to an earlier bulleun, a new engineer applies for the membership of the association every five hours (Al Dustour).

\*\* AN AGREEMENT was signed between the Civil then explicit will prove the company will conduct a feasibility study for the Aqaba/Eilat international airport project. The study, to be carried out the company will conduct a feasibility study for the Aqaba/Eilat international airport project. The study, to be carried out the company will conduct a feasibility study for the Aqaba/Eilat international airport project. The study, to be carried out the company will conduct a feasibility study for the Aqaba/Eilat international airport project. The study, to be carried out Aviation Authority and the \$500,000 and will be financed by the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (Al Dus-

## RJR to cut 575 jobs, moves international tobacco base to Geneva

brands.

NEW YORK (AP) — RJR Nabisco plans to cut costs and light a fire under global sales of its cigarettes like Winston and Camel by eliminating about five per cent of its domestic tobacco jobs and moving its international tobacco headquartes to Switzerland.

Virtually all of the 575 job cuts announced Friday will be in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where RJR's R.J. Reynolds tobacco business is

Reynolds is the secondbiggest tobacco products company in the United States but has been losing ground in the battle for market share as Philip Morris, with its Marlboro brand, has widened its

While analysts described the two moves as modest gestures, they were being made as RJR Nabisco executives are under increasing pressure to boost the stock price or otherwise deliver more value to shareholders. Financier Bennett Lebow

recently secured clearance to

buy up to 15 per cent of the

company after being rebuffed by RJR on his proposal to combine Revnolds with his Liggett tobacco business. Corporate raider Carl Icahn has sought similar investment clearance from federal regulators.

While analysts doubt that he two men could mount a takeover of RJR, they say they could marshal shareholder support for a dividend increase, a proxy fight against current management or separation fo the \$15 billion conglomerate's tobacco and food businesses.

In addition to tobacco. RJR owns 80.5 per cent stake in Nabisco Holdings Corp. which makes Oreo cookies. Ritz crackers and Planters

"We have high expectations regarding the future impart of this programme to reorganise and streamline both the international and domestic tobacco businesses," RJR's chairman and chief executive, Charles Harper, said in announcing the tobacco restructuring on

RJR said the actions would reduce earnings by \$160 million in the fourth quarter. By

tuning by RJR.
"All of these companies 1997, Mr. Harper said the moves should begin generating more than \$150 million a year in extra income. Other company officials said those restructuring gains will be reinvested in supporting the

quarters to Geneva, Switzerland, from Winston-Salem, Reynolds is cutting 500 jobs, or about 5.2 per cent of its domestic work force of about 9,500 people, including 7,500 in Winston-Salem.

Roy Burry, tobacco analyst at Oppenheimer and Co., said the job cuts were designed to "create some savings" that can be used to beef up marketing efforts. "They want to stem the loss of market share in the U.S. market because that is its most important source of cash generation," he said.

John Maxwell, tobacco analyst for Wheat First Butcher and Singer, estimated that RJR's share of the domestic tobacco market fell to 25.9 per cent in the 12

months ending in June from 28.3 per cent a year earlier. Mr. Maxwell characterised the job cuts as some fine-

are continuing to try to find ways to cut overhead and be more efficient," he said. RJR is also moving its international tobacco head-

where it employs 160 people.

The company said 75 of those jobs will be eliminated but that 85 other employees will be offered jobs in Gene-

va or elsewhere in RJR. The international tobacco division already operates two regional offices in Geneva. Company officials said consolidating those offices with the main international office would put top international managers closer to their key European markets and eliminate duplicated costs.

The company said the move of the international base had nothing to do with anti-tobacco litigation in the

# Japan reports modest rise in Middle East investment

ABU DHABI (AFP) -Japan has pumped only \$216 million in additional investment in the Middle East even though it is the region's main trade partner and the biggest buyer of its oil, officials said Tuesday.

From \$4.231 billion at the end of March 1993, Japan's direct investments increased to \$4.447 billion at the end of March 1994. said Shigero Kimura, director of the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) office in the United Arab Emirates.

The builk of the increase was recorded in the UAE. where Japanese investment grew to \$694 million from \$535 million during the same

WASHINGTON (AFP) —

The United States, bent on

isolating Saddam Hussein,

ooks at Sunday's controver-

sial referendum on the Iraqi

dication of U.S. policy.

period, according to JETRO figures sent to AFP.

Another increase was recorded in the Neutral Zone, an oil-rich desert strip shared by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Investment there, concentrated in the Arabian Oil Company, rose to \$1.586 billion from \$1.565 billion.

Japan's investment in Saudi Arabia and Iran remained unchanged at \$470 million and \$1.385 billion respectively.

Assets in Bahrain also remained at \$202 million while investment in other parts of the Middle East increased to \$110 million from \$75 million, according to Mr. Kimura, who provided no fi-

Most of Japan's investments in the region, mainly in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), cover oil and gas, industry and marketing.

Mr. Kimura attributed the sharp increase in the UAE to a surge in the number of Japanese companies operating in Dubai's Jebel Ali free trade zone. He said 27 Japanese firms were now operating in the 20ne, the biggest in the region, compared with 18 at the end of March 1993.

The figures showed Japan's investment in the GCC did not exceed one per cent of its worldwide assets of around

# Japanese women sue company for discrimination

TOKYO (AP) — In a case that starkly illustrates the disparities between men and women in Japan's-workplaces, six women have sued their employer for alleged discrimination against them

in pay and promotions. The six, employees of Kanematsu Corp., a major trading company, asked for 170 million yen (\$1.7 million) in damages and lost wages, saying they had been shunted into lower-paying sections of the company during their

Although Japan passed an equal employment opportunity law in 1986, the law's enforcement provisions are weak, and it is still common for companies to put men and women on different career

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

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Deutsche Mark

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Even women who work the same hours and do similar jobs to men can find themselves earning much less after just a few years.

At Kanematsu, for example, women were virtually all put into clerical positions, while men were put into a faster-track management division, said a union representing the company's empiovees. On average, a 27-year-old man would make about the

same as a women twice his age, and after 30 years in the company most men would be earning more than 500,000 yen (\$5,000) a month, compared to three-fifths that for women, the union said. The men also get more

**Jordan Times** 

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Cairo Amman Bank

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USD/Oz JD/Gm\* Metal

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perks, such as travel allowances and generous expense accounts.

"It's not as if because we earned half the money, we could do less work." atsuko Kimura, one of the plaintiffs. "If you think of how much difference there will be in your retirement (pay), it's just too much to The plaintiffs in the case

have worked at Kanematsu for 13 to 38 years. They said they tried first to work out the disagreement outside the courtroom.

Kanematsu officials declined comment on the case. Numerous surveys have found discrimination in hiring and promotion practices in Japan, but the government

### **U.S. firms boost plans** for new investments

WASHINGTON (R) — makes U.S. industries more Businesses are boosting their plans for spending on bigger plants and new equipment this year, the Commerce Department has said.

Companies intend to spend \$600.74 billion on new capital equipment in 1995, a 9.4 per cent rise from 1994, instead of the 6.6 per cent increase indicated six months ago. That is less than a revised

12.1 per cent increase in capital spending during 1994, which was previously reported as a 13.7 per cent iumo, but still represents a strong pace of new invest-

Vigorous spending by domestic companies on updated production equipmet and computers not only benefits the economy, but also

has been slow to take action.

competitive in foreign mar-

The latest survey of capital

spending was mailed in June

to 30,000 companies. It up-

dates one conducted last fall

that was published in Febru-

ary. The department ques-

tions companies in nonfarm

businesses twice a year to

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The revised investment

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intend to boost spending this

\$181.83 billion, stronger than

the 20.2 per cent increase

they indicated in the preced-

ing survey and more than

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they made in 1994.

tions against Baghdad. "The referendum is a transparent effort to suggest that there is popular support for Saddam Hussein's regime," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns

said this week. "The Iraqi regime is not interested in the views of the Iraqi people. It's a sham election, sham referendum," he

U.S. condemnation of the referendum coincided with the release at the United Nations of the latest report by a special commission tasked with overseeing Iraqi disarmament. The report by special en-voy Rolf Ekeus presented

Wednesday to the Security Council said that Iraq "had been misleading the commission by withholding informaits nuclear and chemical weapons programme. The U.S. ambassador to

the United Nations. Madeleine Albright, speaking to journalists at U.N.

headquarters in New York, called the report "stunning" and said it showed that Iraq "cheated and lied more than anybody suspected."

**U.S.** feels vindicated

in anti-Saddam crusade

U.S. officials said the findpresidency and recent U.N. ings would prompt the U.N. findings on Baghdad's Security Council to definitely weapons programme as vinput future reconsideration of the sanctions regime on the The administration of Presback burner, for at least a ident Bill Clinton has dismissed the poll expected to prolong President Saddam's

"It's certainly not weeks or mandate for seven more months," a spokesman for years as a "mockery of demo-Albright said. "It is difficult cracy" while pressing its cam-paign to maintain U.N. sancto imagine Iraq being able to establish its credibility in a vear.

The U.N.-approved sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait prohibits Baghdad from exporting oil, its main source of hard currency, sparking shortages of food and medicines.

The defection of Iraqi General Hussein Kamel in August, considered one of the chief architect's of Iraq's military buildup, has provided advocates of a tough line with arguments to support continued intransigence towards Baghdad.

General Assembly last month, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said sanctions would not be lifted until Iraq complies with U.S. demands on disarmament and demonstrates it has changed its hardline attitude. Mr. Christopher did not,

In a speech to the U.N.

however, spell out how the change in attitude could be objectively measured.

The tough U.S. position advocating "dual contain-

ment" of Iraq and Iran enjoys widespread support in Congress where opposition Republicans have challenged President Bill Clinton's foreign policy objectives for Bos-

nia, Russia and China. The administration maintains that Iraq constitutes a military threat to the region even though the Pentagon was forced to admit last month that its fears of a repeat of the 1990 Kuwaiti invasion were unfounded.

The Defence Department said its satellites had deterted irregular movements in Iraqi bases but later admitted that it could not say with certainty that an invasion was being

Michael Fisenstadt, a senior fellow of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, says the United States has adopted a "better safe than sorry" approach to Iraq since the 1991 Gulf war.

Washington has boosted its military presence in the region by persuading Qatar to accept the deployment of a 4,500-strong brigade that was to reinforce a first contingent of similar strength in Kuwait.

The United States is seeking a third base in the region but Saudi Arabia has so far refused to take in additional U.S. forces.

"We also rattle the sabre to encourage unrest." says Mr. Eisenstadt.

But the United States is trying to "get rid of Saddam Hussein without destroying the government structure.

#### JORDAN MARKET PLACE



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**Calculators** 

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Miguel Indurain and his team feel they've found the perfect combination of technology, training, and timing. With it they plan to shatter one of cycling's most coveted

Indurain, the reigning fivetime Tour de France champ, will try to break the one-hour distance record in this high Andean city on a space-age bike designed specifically for the attempt.
Indurain, 31, a lanky Spa-

niard with a quiet demeanor, will mount the bike on Sunday to try to better the mark of 55.291 kilometres set by Tony Rominger of Switzer-land on Nov. 5, 1994.

Indurain's goal is not just to break the record, but shatter it. His team says he can add 1,400 metres to Rominger's mark.

The frame of his bike, the "Espada 95," (or "Sword 95") weighs just 1.97 kilogrammes, about 40 per cent ighter than most professional

The front is dimpled like a' golf ball to create a symmetrical airflow. Indurain will also be helped by the thin, ess resistant air of B ogota,

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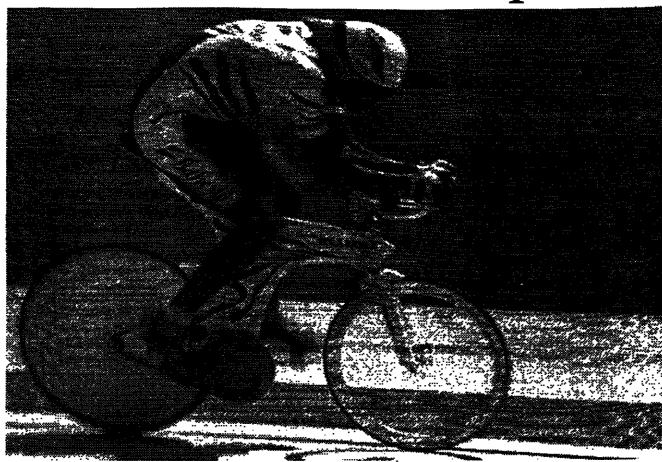
which is perched on an Andean pleateau nearly 2,600 metres above sea level. "I am well prepared and enthusiastic," Indurain told

reporters. Indurain has risen at dawn most mornings this week to practice at the 333.33-metre Luis Carlos Galan Velodrome track, considered one of the world's fastest after cyclists broke records in five events at the world championships there last month. As the streaks past the

grandstands, the bands of yellow, red, and blue on his bike's white frame become a blur. Sometimes he rides alongside his younger brother, Prudencio, also a professional cyclist, or teams with French cyclist Jeannie Longo, who is training for an attempt at the women's hour distance record early next

Indurain's only enemy in the open-air track is the wind. He plans to make his record breaking attempt be-tween 5-8 a.m. Sunday (1000-1300GMT), when the weath-. er is usually calmest.

"If it's windy, there's almost no chance to break the record," he said.



Spanish cyclist Miguel Indurain trains for his attempt to break the world cycling hour record at Bogota (Reuters photo)

## World Cup qualifying terms approved

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — FIFA's World Cup Committee on Friday gave con-ditional approval to all five regional confederations' qualifying procedures for the 1998 World Cup, including South America's single league format involving all nine entrants.

The approval of Conmebol's procedure was warmly welcomed by the South American Confederation in Asuncion, Paraguay. Spokesman for the South American Confederation

Nestor Benitez said they had achieved an important "poli-tical victory" by getting FIFA to accept the league format. South American Football Confederation General Secretary Eduardo de Luca said: "For sport, the new system is fairer, because it guarantees that the four best teams will qualify for the World Cup finals," he told the Associ-

"Economically, it will bring in much more revenue from ticket sales and TV rights, because each team will

ated Press.

Instead of the usual two- or three-group system, the nine South American hopefuls not including Brazil which qualifies automatically as host — will play every other nation in the confederation at home and away with the top four finishers advancing to the 32-nation finals.

The change is the third time that South America has altered its proposal for the 1998 World Cup. For the 1994 World Cup they had two groups, one of four teams and one of five and in 1990 there were three qualifying

At a meeting of the bureau of the FIFA Organising Com-mittee of the World Cup, the bureau discussed the proposals from each of the continental confederations and approved them all subject to confirmation by the full FIFA organising committee at its meeting in Paris on Dec. 10.

If formally approved, the 50 European nations would be divided among nine groups with the group win-ners and five best secondplaced teams qualifying for the World Cup finals along with host France.

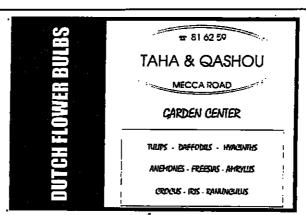
Concacaf will have two sixteam semifinal league-play groups, three of which from each will advance to a final league group. The top three advance.

In Africa, after preliminary rounds winnow the field to 20. there will be five groups of four from which the group winners advance.

Asia will be split into three geographic regions for early qualifying from which eight teams will qualify for a final eight-team group. The top three will automatically qualify for the World Cup finals with the fourth-place team playing off against the Oceania winner for another

Oceania will be divided into two five-team groups with the top two in each advancing to a semifinal round. The eventual champion will enter the playoff against the fourth-placed Asian team.

As of Friday, 169 teams, including Brazil and France. had entered for the World Cup. The qualifying draw is scheduled for Dec. 12 in





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# at the ready for the runners cup LONDON (AP) - It will second place on goal differ-

take a calculator to figure out which countries qualify for the European Soccer Championships.

Spain and Russia know they've qualified. The Swiss are celebrating that they have made it to the finals for the first time. Bulgaria and Germany are sure they can't be caught and Scotland's fans already are packing their bags for the trip across the border to England. But UEFA's complicated

qualification procedure means that most teams won't know until the last kick of the last game whether they are going to the championships or not.

In the interest of fairness. Europe's soccer authority has introduced a series of mindboggling criteria to determine which teams advance.

Each of the eight group winners go through but even deciding them isn't exactly straightforward. If the top two finish level

on points, they are separated on the basis of the results of their head-to-head games. If, for example, the Turks win their final game against Sweden, they will tie with Switzerland atop group three with 17 points and the positions will depend on how they fared against each other.

No stopping

Newcastle

LONDON (AFP) — New-castle stayed top of the En-glish Premiership on Satur-

day after winning a five-goal thriller against Queen Park Rangers (QPR), while Man-

chester United moved into

second place after their derby

Newcastle striker Les Fer-

dinand returned to QPR and

scored a beautiful goal, but

his former club appear to

have found a ready made

replacement in Daniele

Dichio, scorer of both Ran-

gers' goals.

Dichio gave his side a 1-0

lead with a 15-yard header on the stroke of half-time. It

was cancelled not by Keith

Gillespie in the 46th minute

wiht a spectacular header from a David Ginola cross

which hit the post and bar

before going in.

Barely 10 minutes later

Ferdinand latched onto War-

ren Barton's 50 yard pass. He

outpaced best friend Dannay

Maddis and rifled an un-

stoppable left footed shot into the net. Dichio got his

second, a header from four

yards, from a Trevor Sinclai

cross to give him his seventh goal in six games.

Newcastle's victory came from a dreadful error by Welsh internatinoal Karl

Ready. He played a backpass

ignorant of the fact that his

American goalkeeper Jurgen

Sommer had come out of his

goal. Gillespie latched onto it and slid the ball home.

Manchester United, with-

out Eric Cantona who failed

a fitness test, the second four

points behind after winning a

disappointing Manchester derby 1-0, their fifth succes-

sive derby victory.
United's hero was Paul

Scholes with his seventh goal of the campaign. His unopposed header from a Ryan Giggs corner should have

been added to by Andy Cole,

who missed three golden opportunities in the last 10

Arsenal, winning their first

match at Ellant Road since

1980, convincing disposed of Leeds United 3-0.

John Lukic, playing his 400th game for the Yorkshire club.

gifted the first goal to Paul

Merseon who scored from 35

yards just before half-time after Lukic's dreadful clear-

ance went straight to him.

Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp made it 2-0 in the 55th

minute after a Steve Bould flick and Ian Wright, who

had been stretchered off at half time, made it 3-0 in the

85th minute a twist and turn

followed by a magnificent chip over Luckic. Aston Villa lost for only

the second time in 29 Villa

Park meetings with Chelsea, and lost their eight match

unbeaten run to boot.

Leeds United's goalkeeper

minutes.

against City.

The problem is, the Swiss won 2-1 at Turkey and the Turks won 2-1 at Switzerland. Goal difference in those two games is the next stage, but they both ended 3-3. The next decider is based on the number of goals scored on the road in those games. Each scored two.

Only then does it go to goal difference from all the qual-

If the Turks win in Sweden

and push Switzerland into

ence, the Swiss will hope to be one of the six best runners-up, who also qualify.

5por

loka tries

osneep intes

With 17 points from eight games, that looks likely. But s not as simple as that.

In this situation, UEFA has decided that the results against the lowest teams in each division should not count. The reasoning behind this, said a UEFA spokesman, is that some teams could try to unfairly manufacture a high-scoring victory over one of the minnows to improve its goal difference right at the end of the qual-

fying stage. Instead, to decide which are the best runners-up in the eight groups, only the games involving the top four are taken into account.

But the top four won't be decided until the final games. In Switzerland's case, its results against Turkey (a win and a loss) will be included. But the final positions of Sweden, Hungary and Iceland, won't be known until Nov. 15. Iceland can move up from last place by winning at Hungary.

That means that the Swiss can't yet work out exactly how their standing relates to the other group runners-up. Taking the current standings, this is how the second

place teams relate in terms of

results against teams one.

three and four. France has seven points, Denmark 11, Switzerland 11, Italy seven, Czech Republic eight, Ireland seven, Bulgaria

10 and Scotland 11. Those figures would put the Danes, Swiss, Scotland, Bulgaria and the Czechs into the finals with the French. Italians and Irish fighting it out for the final two places.

## Manning joins Phoenix Suns

PHOENIX (AP) — The Phoenix Suns signed unrestricted free agent Danny Manning to a six-year. guaranteed contract Thursday, taking a chance that Manning's surgically repaired knees will last until he's at

Manning, who played in 46 games last season before he tore a ligament Feb. 6, also was allowed to buy one share of the limited partnership that will run the Arizona Diamondbacks, a 1998 baseball expansion team.

Suns President Jerry Colangelo, the managing partner of the baseball team, said the \$5 million share was a separate arrangement.

Terms of the contract, which could run seven year's with an option, were not disclosed, but it was believed to be worth between \$6 million

agent, said the deal was better than a seven-year, \$35 million offer Manning turned

and \$8 million a year.
Ron Grinker, Manning's

to lioin the Suns.

Last year, Phoenix was able to squeeze out just, \$1 million under the salary cap to sign the 6-foot-10 forward. the No. 1 pick in the 1988 draft, but Manning accepted he would be wellcompensated in the future.

Grinker said there was no fear when Manning's knee. blew out, because he trusted Colangelo to fulfill his prom-

Manning said he won't re-turn until at least January. but "the bottom line for me is that I can't wait to get back on the court.

The two-time all-star averaged 17.9 points, 6 rebounds and 3.3 assists last season and shot 54 per cent, which was

ninth in the NBA. Manning joined the Suns on Sept. 8, 1994. He played five-plus seasons with the Clippers before they traded him to Atlanta on Feb. 24, 1994.

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Supplies, 135pp., paperback Aveil. Supplies, 135pp., paperback. Available from The Bridge World, 39 W. 94th St., New York, N.Y., 10025. \$11.95 including postage and handling.) The 64 hands will test most players. Here's an example. We would clearly prefer a relid of one no trump by North, but that would not alter the final contract.

would not alter the final contract and a diamond lead would be unlikely, so declarer would be facing the same problem. South receives the lead of the jack of spades. Would you rather play or defend three no trump?

It might seem that the contract is easy. Win the spade in hand, cash the king of clubs and continue the suit. When West produces the queen, allow it to win. With the king of diamonds safe from attack, you are assured of three spade tricks, two hearts and four clubs. However, West can jettleson the queen of clubs under the king, and now there's no way to nine tricks without letting East gain the lead for a diamond lead through the king, Down one.

for a diamond lend through the king. Down one.

There is a counter. Declarer can win the first trick in dummy and lead a club. Inserting the eight when East plays low. Is this the best line? We'll let the mathematicians debute the exact percentages, but it does deliver the contract on the actual lie of the cards.

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## ig joins x Suns

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## **Ioka tries** to sweep 3 titles

OSAKA, Japan (AP) — Japanese boxer Hiroki Ioka will attempt to become the first Japanese - and the first in Asia - to win world titles in three different divisions when he challenges World Boxing Association (WBA) flyweight champion Saen Sow Ploenchit of Thailand next Tuesday.

A No. 3 contender in the

WBA rankings, loka clin-ched his first world title, the World Boxing Council straw-weight, by beating Thailand's Mai Thonburifarm in October 1987. He took his second world

title in December 1991 when he earned a decision over WBA junior flyweight champion Yu Myung-Woo of South Korea.

Tuesday's 12-round bout will be Saen's sixth defence of the title he grabbed from Venezuela's David Griman in February 1994.

It also will be loka's second crack at the 50.8 kilogramme title. In June 1993, the 26-year-old loka fought against then-champion Griman, but lost to him with an 8th-round technical knockout.

Ioka has a record of 27 victories, including 14 knockouts, against four defeats and one draw in his pro career.

#### Spectrum takes **Champion Stakes**

NEWMARKET, England (R) — Irish 2,000 Guineas winner Spectrum, who finished lame in the Epsom Derby, bounced back to winning group one form on Saturday with a comfortable victory in the Champion

Taking up the running with a furlong (200 metres) left. Spectrum, a 5-1 chance ridden by John Reid, strode clear up the finishing hill to win by two lengths from Riyadian (7-2), the Mount of Richard Quinn.

Third place went to 25-1 outsider Montjoy, ridden by Pat Fddery. Bahri, twice a winner at Ascot, started:5-2 favourite but could only finish fifth of the eight runners.

Trainer Peter Chapple-Hyam, who won the Champion Stakes with Rodrigo de Triano in 1992 when ridden by Lester Piggott, said: "After the derby it was touch and go whether Spectrum would

But the colt recovered superbly, showing his wellbeing with a close up second last month to Epsom Derby runner-up Tamure in the group three Prix du Prince D'Orange at Longchamp.

Tamure was also in Saturday's field but on better weight terms Spectrum found no difficulty reversing the form. Tamure, who started at 11-4, finished fourth.



Scottish boxer Jim Murray is stretchered from the ring after falling unconscious in the 12th round of his

fight against British Bantamweight champion Drew Docherty (Reuters photo)

## Boxer critical after surgery

GLASGOW, Scotland (R) Scottish boxer James Murray was in a critical condition on Saturday after having a blood clot removed from his

The fighter was rushed to hospital after being knocked unconscious by British bantamweight champion Drew Docherty in the 12th round of a title match which then erupted into a riot.

Doctors removed a subdural haematoma blood clot from the left side of Murray's brain and said the following 24 hours would be a crucial time for the boxer, who had not regained consciousness since Friday evening.

Five fans were treated in hospital for injuries sustained in the rioting whch followed the bout.

Neurosurgeon Garth Cruickshank, who operated on the 25-year-old Murray at a Glasgow hospital, said: The operation went very

satisfactorily."
Rab Hide, clinical director of neurological services at the hospital, said: "In this particular type of clot you can remove the clot but you are left, one, with the effects of the pressure which was there before and, secondly, with the brain swelling that can occur as a result of the direct injury to the brain rather

than just the clot itself. "This is what we are trying to treat now." Murray appeared to be

heading for victory until he crashed to the canvas in the final round. As doctors and officials

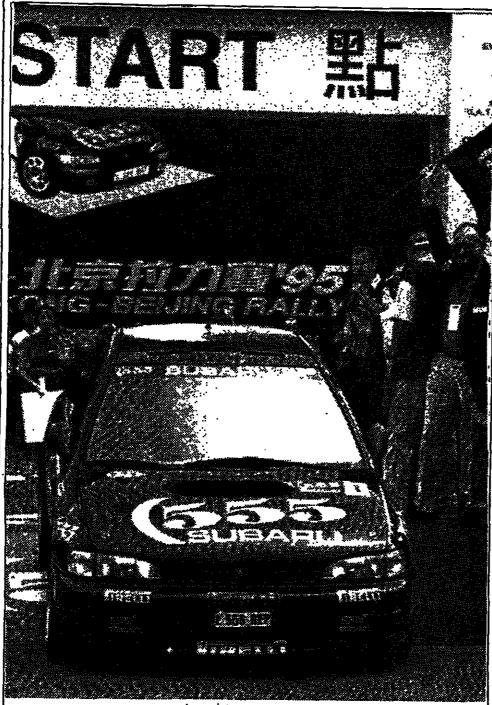
struggled to revive him, rival fans in the four-star hotel where the fight was held began rioting.

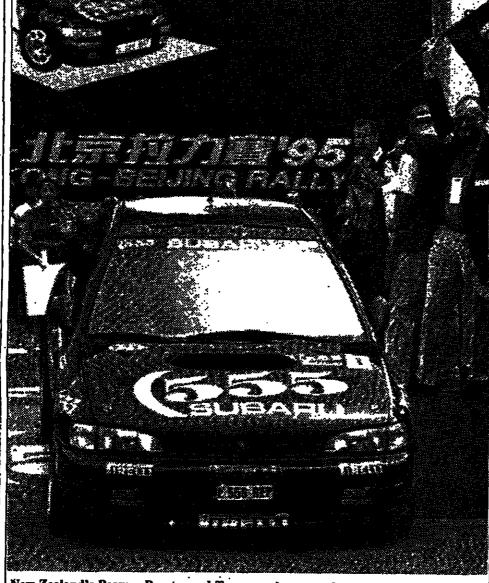
Glasses, bottles and chairs were thrown in Docherty's direction. Television pictures showed members of the

crowd fleeing in panic. Five fans were taken to hospital. Police said they would be holding an inquiry into the trouble.

British Board of Boxing Control General Secretary John Morris, who was at the ringside, said: "It was one of the most disgusting scenes I've seen, particularly when there's an injured boxer lying on the floor."

Murray, a former Scottish amateur champion, turned professional in 1993. He had topped four of his last six opponents and officials said he had been promised a shot at the World Boxing Orga-nisation (WBO) title if he could beat Docherty.





New Zealand's Possum Bourne and Tony ner last year, leads the pack of 44 cars in Sircombe in their Subaru Impreza get the 3,700 kilometres rally through some of flagged off at the official start of the Hong the toughest terrain in China (Reuters Kong-Beijing Rally 1995 at Hong Kong's photo) Stonecutter Island. Bourne, the rally win-



### Chang, Philippoussis advance to Seiko final

TOKYO (R) — Top seed Michael Chang and Austra-lian teenager Mark Philip-poussis, who has upset three seeds on his way through the tournament, won their semifinals on Saturday to set up a final clash in the Seiko Super Tennis Tournament.

The American Chang, ranked fifth in the world, Beat Sweden's Henrik Holm 5-7. 6-4, 6-4, and Philippoussis toppled Germany's Hendrick Dreekmann 6-4, 4-6,

Chang fell behind Holm, ranked 128, who captured the first set, with the aid of eight

But Holm showed signs of tiring in the second and third sets, repeatedly missing critical break point opportuni-

Philippoussis, who is likely to move into the top 40 from his current 60th ranking after Saturday's win, used a punishing serve and confident net play to stop Dreekmann in one hour and 39 minutes.

The up-and-coming Australian won 44 of 50 first

serve points and saved five of six break points, suffering his first break in the tournament in the ninth game of the second set.

Chang, who won last year's Seiko Super Tournament, called the 19-year-old Philippoussis, ranked 60, a "dangerous" opponent for his powerful serve.

Against Mark I'm going to definitely have to return quite well tormorrow," said Chang. "On the days that he's making his shots he's a very tough player to beat."

In their only previous meeting. Chang beat Philip-

poussis in straight sets on clay in Rome earlier this year. "People think Michael

Chang is expected to win, and that takes the pressure off me," said Philippoussis.
"That's when I do well when people don't expect me to do well.

He has knocked out fifth seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden, 11th seed Brett Steven of New Zealand, and fourth seed Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands in the tournament so far.



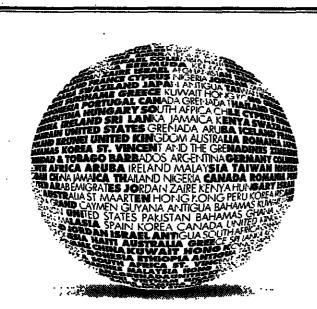
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# U.N. and U.S. at odds over Iraq monitoring

## 'Sanctions unlikely to be eased before one year'

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) .- The United States has called for an upgrading of U.N. surveillance systems in Iraq, but the official in charge of ridding Baghdad of weapons of mass destruction said his team deserved a Nobel prize.

"If there were such a thing as a Nobel prize for arms control our scientists should have this. It was an impressive performance," said Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission. "I see no reason for a major retool-

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright told reporters the year-old monitoring system to make sure Iraq did not acquire new weapons was "inadequate" and said it had to be "adjusted and upgraded" in light of massive new revelations of past and possible current arms prog-

Ms. Albright spoke after a closed-door council discussion on a major six-month written report from Mr. Ekeus, his first since Baghdad released half a million pages of documents in August (see page 2)

This followed the defection to Jordan of Hussein Kamel, a senior Iraqi weapons official with considerable knowledge of biological, chemical and ballistic arms Iraq had hidden from the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Commission, which is in charge of nuclear materials.

Mr. Ekeus, at a news conference, said General Kamal had told him one reason he defected was that his position became "untenable" because of the commission's detection

Ms. Albright com-plimented Mr. Ekeus' group but said the new information would need more work on the monitoring system.

Mr. Ekeus said there would have to be adjustments but disputed claims that the system of cameras and inspectors was not working adequately.

"The monitoring system has demonstrated its strength," he said. "You have to recall that it was the monitoring system that detected the existence of a biological weapons programme in Iraq. It was not volun-

Mr. Ekeus' report, released on Wednesday, said he was still uncertain whether Iraq produced more ballistic missile engines than it had declared, Whether it still had some VX nerve gas ingre-dients for chemical weapons and whether it had disposed

He said that during his last visit to Baghdad in September he was shown what he was told was a dump site of destroyed missile warheads but when his inspectors investigated they found this was not the case.

The United States as well as Britain feel vindicated for their tough positions in the council on the scope of Iraqi weapons, which are tied to lifting the oil embargo part of the sanctions imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of

Ms. Albright would not give a time frame for when she thought the council would seriously consider easing sanctions.

But U.S. officials said that a re-evaluation of previously hidden Iraqi weapons stockpiles would take at least one year and that during that time, sanctions banning Baghdad's oil from world markets would be main-

"It's certainly not weeks or months," a spokesman for U.S. Ambassador Albright said. "It is difficult to imagine Iraq being able to establish its

credibility in a year."
After discussing the report with the Security Council, Mr. Ekeus told journalists he feared Baghdad may still have chemical and biological warheads, and that components Iraq imported for building missiles could allow

"We have concerns that such weapons remain." Mr. Ekeus said. "I wouldn't say it is probable, but there is a possibility; we have to investigate.

their conversion to long-

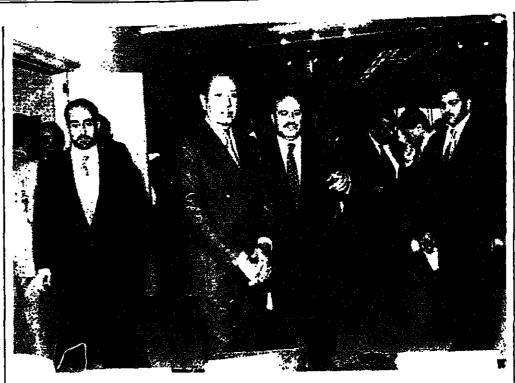
range use.

A regular review of sanctions takes place every two months, the next one in November, but the U.S. officials said a reevaluation resulting in their being lifted could not occur until Iraq meets the conditions imposed on it by the resolutions.

The weapons programme poses "a very major threat to the region," British Ambassador John Weston asserted. U.N. weapons monitors have said it could take months to verify the new

"We are going to have to require form the Iraqis that this time they really do come clean." Mr. Weston said. But "it will not be or quite a long

material.



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker is briefed on Saturday on facilities being prepared for participants in and journalists covering the Oct. 29-31 Middle East and North Africa economic summit in Amman (Petra photo)

## Higher committee reviews facilities for MENA summit

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Saturday urged the higher steering committee supervising preparations for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference later this month to mobilise the potentials and coordinate the efforts of all groups and sub-committees and facilitate measures to ensure the success of the confer-

Addressing a meeting of the committee, the prime minister underlined the need to offer the best facilities for the local and foreign media to enable them to cover the various sessions of the conference.

He also urged the local media to convey the Kingdom's best image and achievements in the most objective manner.

At the meeting, held at the Prime Ministry in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Moham-

agreement is reached with

the Palestinian National Au-

thority (PNA), a PNA leader

the spring.

mad. His Majesty King Hussein's military secretary. arrangements and preparations carried out by the various sub-committees were

Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb presented an outline about these preparations. The participants in the three-day event will hold seven main sessions. 13 working sessions and 18 subsequent meetings to present the projects and eight workshops.

The minister said that until Oct. 10 the committee had listed 173 speakers representing 29 nations and 12 international agencies. The number could rise in the coming days, he said.

The number of participants could reach 900 while up to 400 journalists are also expected to attend, he said.

The private sector has prepared 136 projects worth \$1.2 billion covering industrial,

PNA official predicts Hamas

split without deal with PLO

agricultural and tourism

Deputy Premier and Information Minister Khaled Karaki said journalists could use eight information offices at the main hotels and two at the airports in addition to a main press centre.

The higher steering committee groups the ministers of education, information, finance, industry and trade, post and communications, interior and tourism along with other officials.

Following the meeting 'he prime minister accompanied by Prince Talal and the committee members, made a tour of the various facilities for the summit participants and journalists and inspected the main operations room, the Royal Cultural Central, and the Palace of Culture.

The prime minister urged all the concerned parties to speed up work so that Amman can be ready for the summit conference in time.

#### Shanghai confiscates match-maker's

earnings

usks for line

SHANGHAL (AFP) -The Shanghai Civil Affairs Administration Bureau confiscated the earnings of a Japanese businessman who ran an illegal matchmaking agency, a newspaper reported. The Xin Min Evening News reported that the bureau ordered Yoshio Suzuki to turn over the 3.15 million Japanese ven (\$31,343) he had earned in eight months' of operating the illegal dating service to the state treasury. The report said Mr. Suzuki was also ordered to cease involvement in activities and businesses that contravene China's marriage law and local regulations. Mr. Suzuki had been meetings organising between single Japanese men and Shanghai women between February and September without getting

#### Dismissed juror poses for Playboy

approval to run his dating

SANTA California (AP) - A woman who was dismissed from the O. J. Simpson jury after telling the judge "I can't take it anymore" is back in court, this time on a set for a Playboy magazine photo shoot. John Warren, manager of Lindsey Studios, told KABC-TV and KNBC-TV that Playboy booked the studio the day after Simpson was acquitted last week. The \$4,000-per-day studio was overhauled to resemble a courtroom. Mr. Warren said. He wouldn't identify the juror, but the TV stations showed video of a woman they said was Tracy Hampton leaving the studio. The stations said the video was taken after the all-day shoot in Santa Clarita, 40 kilometres north of Los Angeles. Playboy refused to comment. Hampton, a 26-yearold airline flight attendant. was dismissed from the jury May 1 after telling Judge Lance Ito she couldn't take the strain of sequestration.

#### Boy rescued in Burma's 1st documented kidnapping

RANGOON, Burma (AP)

- Police rescued a five-

year-old boy and arrested five suspects in the first recorded kidnapping case in modern Burma, the state-owned new Light Of Myanmar reported. The rescue took place on Aug. 16 near Pangsang, 800 kilometres northeast of \$ Rangoon in the remote hills of the Burma-China border. The five-year-old boy, identified only Hsanti, was reported missing by his father Kyaw Myint on Aug. 5. Two days later he received a ransom note from the kidnappers demanding 400,000 Chinese yuan (\$48,192). On Aug. 12, Kyaw Myint dropped off 60,000 yuan (\$7,228) at a place designated by the kidnappers. He did not inform police of his actions. The kidnappers' sent a threatening letter on Aug. 16 demanding the rest of the cash. With the help of Pangsang police, Mr. Kyaw Myint then dropped a bag of counterfeit notes at a designated spot the same day. Ten minutes after the drop, as police lay in wait, two men attempted to pick up the money. One suspect was shot in the leg during a scuffle and apprehended & later, while the other escaped. The captured suspect led them to the house where the boy was kept. Police stormed the house. rescuing the boy, nabbing five suspects and retrieving the \$7.228.

## Maid saved from execution as **UAE** family abandons demand

DUBAI (Agencies) - Filipina maid Sarah Balabagan was saved from a firing squad on Saturday when the family of the man she killed dropped its demand for her execution. officials and the family said.

Ms. Balabagan was condemned to death last month when a United Arab Emirates (UAE) court convicted her of the premeditated murder of her UAE employer Mohammad Abdullah Al Baloushi, rejecting her claim that he had raped her.

"I just told the court I don't want the death sentence. I don't want her to be Baloushi's 24-yearold son Faraj said. "Sure it was a difficult decision but what can I do."

UAE officials, who, in line with Islamic law, had urged the Baloushi family to consider forgiving Ms. Balabagan, said he went to the appeals court in the oasis city of Al 'Ain on Saturday to withdraw his family's demand for her execution.

He said he agreed with the court to accept 150,000 dirhams (\$40,000) in "blood money" in compensation for his 85-year-old father's

The decision means the court will automatically drop the death penalty imposed on Sept. 16, although a court could sentence Ms. Balabagan to a term in prison, an official said, asking not to be

Officials said the Baloushi family decided to drop their demand for Ms. Balabagan's execution after UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan urged them to forgive her in accordance with Islamic principles.

"The decision came after the private and personal entorts of Sheikh Layed who urged them to act in accordance with Islam," said an

"He who forgives someone in Islam is rewarded by God," he added.

On Thursday, Philippines Ambassador Roy Seneres told Reuters the parents of the maid will ask the family of the slain man to show mercy and drop their demand for her execution.

The case has aroused high emotions in the Philippines after another Filipina maid, Flor Contemplacion, was

hanged in Singapore earlier this year for murder.

On Saturday Ambassador Seneres issued a statement on behalf of himself and Ms. Balabagan's family, thanking Sheikh Zayed "for his kindness and compassion."

"I have always stated that I have the highest confidence in the judicial system of the United Arab Emirates," the statement said.

It was not known whether Ms. Balabagan would be allowed to go free.

Legal sources said that she was likely to get one to seven years in prison.

Ms. Balabagan's a hearing, which opened Monday, was adjourned till Oct. 30 after she repeated that she had killed Baloushi in selfdefence when he allegedly tried to rape her. Court docu-ments showed Baloushi had

been stabbed 34 times. Philippines embassy officials have said that Ms. Balabagan's parents, who arrived in the UAE ahead of her appeal hearing, were willing to meet Baloushi's seven chil-

dren to ask for forgiveness. It was not known whether a meeting had taken place.

## Fierce fighting around Kabul

KABUL (Agencies) -Fierce fighting between government troops and opposi-tion Taliban rebels on the southern outskirts of warweary Kabul continued for the fourth straight day with neither side making any significant gains.

Government forces pounded the southern Rishkor hills to try to dislodge the Talibans, who overran key government posts earlier this week to reach the outskirts of the capital.

Talibans were holding on, but government sources said fresh troops were being deployed to the southern out-

The Talibans, made up of Islamic religious students turned guerrilla fighters, wants President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his military chief, Ahmad Shah Masoud, to resign and turn over the capital to them.

Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Masoud have refused.

In Peshawar, Pakistan, Taliban leaders accused Iran on allowing its border to be used for an armed incursion into the western province of Herat.

"We want good relations with Iran, but if such attacks continue, the responsibility would be Iran's," a spokesman for Taliban leader Mul-

lah Mohammad Omar said. The spokesman was speaking to reporters in Peshawar by satellite telephone from the southern city of Kandahar, a Taliban stronghold.

He said the intruders from Iran had entered at the border crossing of Islam Gala on Saturday. Opened fire and then fled back into Iran. There was no word on any casualties or damage in the alleged raid.

The Taliban captured

Herat province from the government on Sept. 5, forcing its Governor Ismail Klian and his fighters to flee to Iran. In Kabul, a Defence Ministry official said earlier that pro-government forces had

captured all of Herat province except the provincial capital and the road south, in advances from Islam Qala and Ghor province, adjoining Herat to the east. Lal Mohammad, a Taliban

spokesman in Peshawar, said the Talibans had gained ground on the southwestern fringes of Kabul, capturing a former Soviet Scud missile base on a hillside overlooking government-held suburbs.

He said pro-Rabbani fighters had abandoned the strategic Bini Hisar hilltop fort on the southwestern edge of Kabul, but it was not clear if Taliban forces now controlled it.

A government official said

CAIRO (agencies) - The Mr. Arafat met Friday for tions. militant Hamas group will the first time with 12 Hamas Mr. Abdul Rahim accused split into two factions if no leaders from the West Bank exiled Hamas leaders of using as well as with the Hamas delegates who travelled to Sudan last week to confer

was quoted as saving Satur-The warning came as PNA President Yasser Arafat and Hamas leaders in the Gaza Strip appeared close to an agreement in which militants would end their attacks on Israelis and participate in elections for a Palestinian unity. self-rule council expected in

"The Hamas leaders outside will be responsible for undermining the group's unity if they continue their pressure and threats against the leadership inside." Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim, the secretary-

general, told Egypt's Al Ahram newspaper. Imad Falouji, a prominent Hamas leader in Gaza, criticised the remarks, saying they "do not serve the cur-

rent situation.' "Any bet that Hamas will split is a losing bet." he said. Hamas leaders have privately accused Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), of trying to divide the movement — his main oppo-nent in the West Bank and Gaza — by alternating between concessions and a crackdown.

with the group's leaders

Mr. Abdul Rahim said both delegations relayed to Mr. Arafat the "serious intent of the Hamas movement to reach an agreement with the Palestinian Authority in order to safeguard national

Hamas sources said the meeting was positive, and Mr. Arafat's adviser. Nabil Abu Irdeineh, said both parties would meet again. Mahmoud Zahar, another

Hamas leader in Gaza, said a meeting to finalise the agreement might take place later this month in Cairo. But a Hamas leaflet distributed earlier in the Gaza

Strip said the group has not vet decided whether to stop attacks that have killed more than 90 Israelis in the past two years.

The efforts at conciliation in Gaza were not matched by the more hardline leaders outside the self-rule territories, who remain militantly opposed to the Israel-PLO peace accords.

Ibrahim Ghosheh, a Jordan-based spokesman for Hamas, said his movement did not sanction. Hamas entering the Palestinian elec-

funding as a way to pressure Gaza leaders to delay an agreement with Mr. Arafat.

The failure of this round of talks will lead to more withdrawals from Hamas and those (leaders) who have been silent will join other political and Islamic groups. Mr. Abdul Rahim said.

Mr. Abdul Rahim, however, remained confident about reaching an accord, despite two months of fruitless negotiations. "I don't think that the in-

ternal leadership will allow the external leadership to continue to stall," he added. He said he hoped that the exterior Hamas leadership

will react positively to the desire for reconciliation by the overwhelming majority of Hamas locally."
Hamas, which has seen

many of its supporters jailed by the self-rule authority, issued a pamphlet Friday denying reports that it was prepared to renounce its armed struggle against the Jewish

Mr. Abdul Rahim said in the newspaper interview that "several Hamas members in Gaza, including the Izzedine Al Qassam military, wing, have started to recognise the negative fallout from the military operations" on the

## Jospin elected **Socialist** leader

PARIS (AFP) - Lionel Jospin, the Socialists' defeated presidential candidate earlier this year, was elected party leader Saturday and immediately called on Socialists to rally to win back power from the hapless Gaullists."

Buoyed by an overwhelming 94 per cent backing from his party, Mr. Jospin told a crowd of around 2,000 Socialists at its national convention that the time was ripe to "reconquer" a government which "is collapsing in on itself and suffering an unprecedented crisis of confidence.'

comes a time of reconstruction and conquest," Mr. Jospin said after the result of the week-long vote was declared. A total of only 2.7 per cent of party members — who voted in federation meetings Monday and Tuesday - were against him.

"For the Socialist Party

He replaces Henri Emmanuelli as first secretary a position Mr. Jospin first held from 1981 to 1988. The outgoing party leader wished his successor luck and called on the party to courageous and open minded.

Mr. Emmanuelli said the two "fundamental axes" of the party had to be the "unity of the left and priority to

## 4 candidates qualify for Algeria election

PARIS (Agencies) - Four passed and those who are candidates have qualified to run in Algeria's presidential poll next month, Algerian state-run radio said on Saturday, quoting an official state-

Besides the incumbent President Liamine Zeroual, the radio named moderate Islamist intellectual Noureddine Boukrouh, anti-Islamist hawk politician Said Saddi and Muslim fundamentalist leader Sheikh Mahfoud Nahnah.

They received the number of support signatures required to be eligible to run in the Nov. 16 presidential poll, the radio said, quoting a constitutional council statement. Meanwhile, a leaflet be-

lieved issued by an Algerian militant group threatened to carry out more attacks in France and warned the French government against involvement in Algeria. The statement came from

Al Ansar, which is widely considered a mouthpiece for Algeria's hard-line Armed Islamic Group (GIA). It condemned the killing of Khaled Kelkal on Sept. 29 by police outside Lyon, France, and suggested more attacks would follow.

Kelkal "fell as a martyr so that his blood would be a beacon for all those who march on the path of holy war and martyrdom," said the leaflet, quoted Saturday in the Arabic newspaper Al

The leaflet said his killing "has initiated the continuity between the martyrs who

coming." The London-based paper did not say how it obtained the leaflet.

France has been hit by seven bombings or bomb attempts since July 25, when a homemade bomb went off in a subway in the heart of Paris, killing seven people and injuring 84. The latest attack was in Paris on the day Kelkal was buried; 13 were

wounded. Keikal was France's most wanted man — his fingerprints were found on adhesive tape attaching a detonator to a bomb that failed to explode. The fingerprints were the only solid clue

police had. The GIA, which is fighting to overthrow the Algerian government, claimed responsibility for the series of attacks in a statement distributed to journalists in Cairo

on Oct. 7. The group said it would keep up the attacks to punish France for interfering in Algeria's domestic affairs and because President Jacques Chirac had ignored its call to convert to Islam.

Officials had previously linked the attacks to Muslim militants targeting France for supporting Algeria's militaryinstalled government. Al Hayat said the newslet-

ter rejected claims by Anwar

Haddam, head of the Islamic Salvation Front's (FIS) parliamentary delegation in exthe Taliban had pushed into a ile, that the two communisuburb south of the shattered ques sent to the newsletter Darulaman Palace using two tanks and two pickup trucks.

# Iranian officials deny possession of weapons of mass destruction

By Sa'eda Kilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - High-ranking Iranian officials Saturday strongly denied that their country possessed weapons of mass destruction and said Iran's policies might change if Syria signed a peace agreement with Israel.

In a seminar organised by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, Ahmad Haj Husseini, general director of the Institute for International and Political Studies at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, said Iran was not against peace in the region but against the ongoing Arab-Israeli peace

process. 'We are not against peace

but this peace is headed by the U.S. and Israel," Mr. Husseini told the Jordan Times. "What have the Palestinians gained so far from the peace process? (The peace process has been beneficial) very much for the Israelis, and very little for the Palestinians."

"The issue of Palestinians in the diaspora, for example. has not been solved yet," he added. Mr. Husseini contended

that "positive" change was unlikely for countries in the Middle East and that Arab-Israeli peace would only be temporary. But if the Syrians come to

an agreement with Israel, "we'll express our own ideas. If the situation changes, then

policies change too. We have nothing against" peace, Mr. Husseini said.

Mr. Husseini, who served at the Iranian mission to the U.N. in New York, rejected suggestions that Iran had relations with Israel during the

Iraq-Iran war. He described as false reports published in the New York Times claiming Iranian-Israeli arms trade activities

during the war. Mohammad Ali Imami, an expert in the Gulf affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, described the New York Times as a Zionist newspaper. He lashed out at the presence of American troops

(Cor' ...ed on page 7)

in the Gulf saying that U.S.